Testimony Regarding
HB 7148: An Act Concerning the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June Thirtieth, 2021, and Making Appropriations Therefor

Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut
March 5, 2019

Thank you, chairs and members of the Appropriations Committee, for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding House Bill 7148: An Act Concerning the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June Thirtieth, 2021, and Making Appropriations Therefor. We are submitting testimony specifically regarding the Medicaid/HUSKY program in the Department of Social Services budget.

At Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut, our mission is to serve as a catalyst that engages residents and communities in shaping a democratic health system that provides universal access to quality, affordable, equitable health care and promotes health in Connecticut. We believe that health care is a fundamental right and that our work is part of a broader movement for social and economic justice.

We applaud the proposed budget’s commitment to maintaining current income eligibility levels and services for Medicaid/HUSKY programs. We urge the committee to retain these appropriations, so that our state’s residents can continue to rely on Medicaid/HUSKY for their health care coverage in the same way they depend on the programs today.

Connecticut’s Medicaid/HUSKY programs are a lifeline for many low income adults, children, parents, seniors, and individuals with disabilities. According to the Department of Social Services’ 10 Things To Know About Connecticut Medicaid, our HUSKY programs are not a budgetary cost, but investments in:

- Financial security, wellness and work for adults, plus independence for Connecticut seniors and those with disabilities
- Our children, benefitting the health, well-being and school readiness of more than one-third of Connecticut children
- Our state economy – the Medicaid program plays a major role in our health care system, as well as in supporting our workforce
Medicaid has also evolved, improving:

- Health outcomes for HUSKY members,
- Experience for both patients and providers, and
- Track record of cost savings

Medicaid/HUSKY coverage is critical for many low income residents in our state. Over 800,000 people rely on Medicaid programs for health care coverage. We caution against any future proposals that reduce income eligibility or cut services to save money – as a state, we should not be balancing the budget on the backs of our low income residents. And we should not be cutting this critical investment in our state’s future.

*Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut’s mission is to serve as a catalyst that engages residents and communities in shaping a democratic health system that provides universal access to quality, affordable health care and promotes health in Connecticut. We believe that health care is a fundamental right and that our work is part of a broader movement for social and economic justice.*