TESTIMONY REGARDING
H.B. No. 7148 AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNium ENDING JUNE THIRTIETH, 2021, AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR

Connecticut Citizen Action Group
March 5th, 2019

To Members of the Appropriations:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony regarding HB No. 7148- An Act Concerning the State Budge for the Biennium Ending June Thirtieth, 2021. Today, we are submitting testimony specifically related to the Medicaid HUSKY A program within the DSS budget.

CCAG is an organization that is proud of its long history of fighting for – and advancing – quality, affordable health care for all Connecticut residents. On behalf of our 8,000 members from across the state, we are supportive of the Governor’s proposal to sustain current eligibility levels at 155% of FPL for HUSKY A parents and caregivers, which will continue to provide essential health coverage for 13,500 low-income working families. However, we do not believe this is enough. We are urge the Governor, and members of this committee to reverse the cut made to parents and caregivers in 2015. This cut resulted in striping away essential health care coverage for 11,000 working parents and caregivers. These individuals are not able to afford the ever-rising cost of premiums, out-of-pocket expenses- and rising prescription drug prices. I urge all committee members to review the testimony from Rachel Murray, a former HUSKY A recipient who speaks compellingly to the challenges of moving from HUSKY A to the private insurance market.

By restoring eligibility rates to 2015 levels of 201% ($42,873 for a family of three), uninsured rates will drop, alignment of coverage between parents and their children will improve and through continued access to care- health outcomes for parents and children will benefit. Finally, the increase in eligibility will be an important step to ensure that – as our state increases the minimum wage- parents and children will still be able to maintain essential health care coverage.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Ann Pratt
Director of Organizing
CCAG