Bill No.: SB-1053
Title: AN ACT EXPANDING MEDICAID AND HUSKY B COVERAGE FOR CHILDREN.
Vote Date: 3/21/2019
Vote Action: Joint Favorable
PH Date: 3/19/2019
File No.: 

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SPONSORS OF BILL:
Human Services Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

Senate bill No. 1053 would expand Medicaid and Husky B to allow coverage for children under 19 regardless of illegal immigration status.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Kathleen Brennan, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Social Services, is in opposition of this bill as it would result in additional program and administrative costs that would fall on the state. She states that the CHIP and Medicaid programs currently cover all lawfully residing immigrant children and that CT is already taking advantage of the section 214 of the Children’s Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act, which covers lawfully residing immigrant children who have been in the country less than 5 years.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Merrill Gay, Executive Director, Connecticut Early Childhood Alliance, is in support of this bill and states that the Center for Children’s Advocacy estimated that approximately 10,000 to 12,000 additional non-citizen children in CT would be eligible for this coverage.

Karen Siegel, Connecticut Voices for Children, is in support of this bill. She states the Center for Children Advocacy estimates that this coverage will cost CT roughly $2,480 per child per year.
Samantha Bell, Public Policy Intern, Connecticut Community Nonprofit Alliance, is in support of this bill. She emphasizes that a child’s immigration status should not determine their access to healthcare coverage. She states that states including California, Illinois, Massachusetts, New York, Oregon, Washington, and the District of Columbia have passed similar legislation.

Gretchen Raffa, Director of Public Policy & Advocacy, Planned Parenthood of Southern New England, is in support of this legislation. She states that currently, federal law prohibits undocumented immigrants from enrolling in Medicaid or the Children’s Health Insurance Program. Also, about 60% of non-U.S. citizen, low income immigrant women of reproductive age lack health insurance.

Lauren Goodman, Operations and Advocacy Manager, Saint Joseph Parenting Center, is in support of this legislation. Emphasizes that timely treatment and insured immigrant children will cost taxpayers less. She states that the undocumented community contributes roughly 145 million in local and state taxes annually but do not have access to the benefits of these tax contribution in terms of affordable healthcare.

Jay E. Sicklick, Deputy Director, Center for Children’s Advocacy, is in support of this legislation. He states that research shows that medical coverage for undocumented youth would increase the numbers of insured children who are eligible for preventative care, decrease emergency department usage, improve educational outcomes, and reduced racial and ethnic disparities. Projections for expanding Medicaid and HUSKY B costs for year one is $3.4 million and $15.5 million for year two. These costs won’t be reimbursed by the federal government as traditional Medicaid expenditures are.

Connecticut Children’s Medical Center is in support of this bill. They emphasized that more than half of their patients that require an inpatient hospital stay rely on HUSKY as do more than 2/3 of the patients in the Emergency Department. A much smaller amount of their patients are uninsured and some are those uninsured patients aren’t insured due to their status of being undocumented.

Kayla Goldfarb, Policy Analysis, Connecticut Association for Human Services, is in support of this legislation.

Kiara Ruesta is in support of this legislation.

Gislene Batista is in support of this legislation.

Lauren Chicoski is in support of this legislation.

Dr. Hannah Rosenblum, Yale-New Haven Hospital, is in support of this legislation.

Dr. Rahul Shah, Connecticut Children’s Medical Center, supports this legislation.

Alayna Schreier supports this legislation.

Dr. Krystn R. Wagner, Fair Haven Community Health Care, is in support of this legislation.
Kimberly Alexander is in support of this legislation.

Laura Rozza is in support of this legislation.

Benjamin Oldfield, Medical Director of Population Health, Fair Haven Community Health Care, is in support of this legislation.

Dr. Rebecca Vitale is in support of this legislation.

Patricia Faraone Nogelo, social worker, Yale New Haven Hospital’s Pediatric Primary Care Center, is in support of this legislation.

Kate Conetta is in support of this legislation.

Tess Raegan, Greater Hartford Legal Aid, is in support of this legislation.

Sarah Healy Eagan, Child Advocate, Office of the Child Advocate for the State of Connecticut, is in support of this legislation.

Dr. Julia Rosenberg is in support of this legislation.

America Academy of Pediatrics, Hezekiah Beardsley Connecticut Charter is in support of this bill.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

John Roncaioli; in opposition of this bill.

**Reported by:** Angela Tremont

**Date:** 03/26/2019