

**House Bill no. 5251**

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS IN THIS STATE.

To: Joint Committee on Insurance and Real Estate

From: Mackenzie Baysinger, UCONN MSW Student

Date: 2/25/2020

Thank you Mr. Chair and members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee. For the record my name is Mackenzie Baysinger and I am a UCONN Masters of Social Work Student here in favor of House Bill 5251.

This study would give proof that health care for people who are undocumented is not only the morally the right thing to do, it is fiscally as well. During a federal study, some of the cost saving measures identified by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force study include, counseling adults to quit smoking, screening for cancer, and providing influenza vaccination, reduce mortality either at low cost or at a cost savings levels.<sup>1</sup>

According to the Pew Research Center, in 2017 there were about 10.5 million undocumented immigrants in the United States. According to estimates, 5.5 to 6 million still need coverage.<sup>2</sup> A healthier community means a healthier society for all.

As a social worker, our ethics demand that we work toward betterment for vulnerable populations, and in America anyone without health insurance is vulnerable. I urge you to support this study to ensure Connecticut is moving in the right direction to protect its people.

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0749379706001243?via%3Dihub>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2019/06/12/5-facts-about-illegal-immigration-in-the-u-s/>