

Dear Members of the Insurance and Real State Committee of Connecticut General Assembly,

My name is Wildaliz Bermúdez, I am an elected official with the Hartford Court of Common Council. I'm here to stand in support of HB5251- AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS IN THIS STATE. This bill would create a taskforce with the objective to study any means available to promote and increase health insurance coverage for undocumented immigrants in our state.

Much like you, I am a proud public servant, and when I visualize the community that I want to help create for my constituents, I do not separate them by race, age, or gender, and I certainly don't differentiate between those with a specific type of arbitrary documentation and those without it. I also believe that healthcare should be accessible to all, and it does not make sense for us to treat something as indispensable as medicine and medical treatment as a tool for profit rather than for care. So if we value inclusion in our communities, and we value human lives, then we should absolutely make sure that we take the first step in providing access to healthcare for all residents of Connecticut and pass HB 5251.

Connecticut's State assembly is no stranger to the systemic absurdity of our immigration system. Many organizers and advocates have been here for years educating their legislators about their stories, their challenges, and their strength. Therefore, there is no room for excuses or for dragging our feet as a state. Connecticut has been a leader on immigrant rights due in large part to many of the organizers here, as well as many brave state legislators who have done the right thing on many issues. However, we have not yet done enough for the immigrant community in our state that is so often criminalized, marginalized, and intentionally underserved. We can not fix the current horrendous U.S. immigration system on our own, but we can pass HB 5251 and take a step in the right direction towards a more equitable and healthy state.

Thank you for your time,  
Wildaliz Bermúdez  
Hartford City Councilwoman