

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee of Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Zoë Ackerman and I am a resident from New Haven, CT.

I stand in support of S.B. No. 956: “AN ACT PROVIDING MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TO CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS,” with clear language that extends eligibility to all HUSKY programs to all CT residents, regardless of immigration status.

My family has lived in Connecticut at various points. My mom attended Yale in the 1980’s and lived in New Haven for several years after graduating. Even though she attended an elite institution of higher education, I grew up without health insurance until I was in my teens. My parents were both writers, and it was impossible to find affordable insurance as self-employed people. As a child, I limited my visits to medical providers to the most urgent ones. I now work for a national organization that is pushing for Healthcare for All and other progressive legislation, but I am worried about my sister, who has chronic health issues, and has had to pay astronomical out-of-pocket fees just to meet her basic needs. I see health insurance as a basic human right, and something that should not be tied to whether someone has employment, as this fluctuates dramatically, as we’ve seen mass layoffs in the pandemic.

Ensuring that everyone, regardless of their immigration status or access to employment, has access to healthcare makes us ALL safer, especially in the middle of a pandemic.

I support S.B. No 956, with clear language to extend current HUSKY eligibility rules to all CT residents, regardless of immigration status, and I ask the committee to support this legislation.

Thank you for your time,

Zoë Ackerman
Member of Resource Generation