

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

My name is Francisco Baires. I am a parent and resident of Manchester, CT. I stand in support of SB956: AN ACT PROVIDING MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TO CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS, but with modifications. SB956 as currently written leaves out many in our immigrant community, it leaves out low-income parents and children under HUSKY A and low-income elderly and disabled folks under HUSKY C. I support modifying SB956 to include ALL CT residents that qualify under the full current HUSKY eligibility.

I was born in El Salvador in 1977 and came to the United States as a baby. I was raised in Texas but have been living in Connecticut with my wife and our 3 year old son since 2014. My wife is a professor at Eastern Connecticut State University and I work for Capitol Region Education Council. I am writing to you today because although my family has health insurance, too many people in communities across CT are denied it.

I know first hand about the importance of health insurance as I suffer from a physical disability from a traumatic brain injury that resulted from being physically assaulted 13 years ago. As someone who continues to need treatment, I write to say that ALL CT residents deserve the same sense of dignity and hope that I have due to the fact that I have access to health care. I do not know where I would be if I was inhumanly denied access to the medical care, physical therapy, and counseling I needed to get my life back on track.

Do the right thing! Stand on the right side of history! No person in CT should be left to wonder how they will get treatment they need. I support S.B. No 956 with the modifications above, and hope the committee will make those changes.

Thank you for your time,

Francisco Baires

Husband, Father, Community Member