

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

My name is Andreina Barajas Novoa and I am a student from Stratford, CT.

I stand in support of SB956 AN ACT PROVIDING MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TO CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS. I support SB956 for it to include ALL CONNECTICUT residents that qualify under the full current HUSKY eligibility.

Both of my parents have suffered a foot injury. My dad broke his foot three years ago making him unable to work for six months, and my mom broke her foot one year ago and she can no longer work. My mother's medical bill was the most costly out of the two totalling up to \$19,000. However, my family and I are fortunate enough to have access to healthcare because of my father's job, so my mother's medical bill decreased drastically after coverage. But had my parents not had healthcare coverage my life would have taken a different turn. More specifically, if my family and I were undocumented then we would've realized what it is like to be ignored by a country that promises safety and healthy lives for all. While my family and I may not be undocumented I am tired of hearing stories of my extended family and friends that have had to put their health aside to continue working; family and friends that work American jobs yet are not considered enough to deserve healthcare. Not only do undocumented people work to better the American society, but they are people too yet this country and the state of Connecticut specifically does not view them as such. Healthcare coverage under husky should be guaranteed to ALL. Leaving out undocumented individuals is cruel and inhumane. As a State and Country we need to do better to ensure that every American has access to healthcare. Too many times undocumented people have to neglect their health because they cannot afford to pay the medical bills. Connecticut needs to set an example and ensure that the health of undocumented people is protected. Their health does not just matter now in the middle of a pandemic; it matters forever and always.

I support SB956 because NO ONE should be denied access to healthcare. Healthcare is a human right and it should be guaranteed to all people regardless of immigration status or income status. Thank you for your time.