

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB956  
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE OF CT GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

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

My name is Edelina Berduo, I am a undocumented mother and resident of Hartford CT since 2016.

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 son recently turned seven years old; he was born in Guatemala. He does not have access to HUSKY because he was not born here in the United States. We take him to a community health clinic and pay as much we can afford with a payment plan.

This situation makes me feel very sad and angry. In fact, we decided not to take him to get blood drawn because we get charged a lot of money. We are very concerned with my son's nose bleeding often, we do not know what is causing it.

I recently got into debt at the clinic and I could not afford to pay. I would go every month and I would be told that I owed \$148. I have an appointment every three months. However one day I arrived at the clinic and they said I had a debt of almost \$700. I was shocked, I did not understand why because I was paying month after month. At the clinic I was informed that not only do I have to pay for medical care but every second that I am there. I was told, "While you are waiting, you are paying. Even before entering the clinic you are already paying."

I was informed that if I did not pay the debt they would no longer continue to treat me nor my son. So I decided not to continue going to the clinic anymore because I could not afford to pay the debt.

This law is very important for the well-being of our families and our children. It is important that we all be in good health, and have access to health insurance so anyone who gets sick or has a medical emergency can be taken to the hospital without having to worry as much about the charge but more about their health.

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,

*Edelina Berduo*

Member of Hartford Deportation Defense