

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee of Connecticut General Assembly:  
My name is Nancy Brown and I am a resident of West Haven, CT. I am a member of the Unitarian Society of New Haven, and I write on behalf of the Unitarian Society's Immigration and Refugee Task Force, which I chair.

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.

Our Immigration and Refugee Task Force has been an ally and supporter of immigrant-led organizations in the Greater New Haven area for over a decade. Our members interact directly with immigrants as ESOL tutors, interpreters, and volunteers for Junta for Progressive Action, Unidad Latina en Accion, IRIS, and other immigrant-led organizations. We see with our own eyes the day-to-day challenges that immigrants face as they seek to learn the culture and language of the U.S., to raise and educate their children, and to make ends meet. When we ask, "What are your goals? Why do you want to learn English?", the responses are most often "So I can get a better job, talk to a doctor, talk to my child's teacher." Lack of adequate health care should not be a barrier as these families try to make their own way in our state.

I support S.B. No 956 with the modifications above, and hope the committee will make those changes.

Thank you for your time,

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