



**LATINO ADVOCACY FOUNDATION**  
*OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY, L.A.F.F. - sonrie*  
108 Sanford Av Bridgeport, CT 06604  
Home: 127 Merriam St Bridgeport Ct  
(917) 509-7238

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Date: March 11, 2021

I'm so humble and it is my duty to be here supporting this bill S.B. No. 956

**“AN ACT PROVIDING MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TO CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS”**

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

My name is Jose Casco, I am a resident from the City Of Bridgeport since 2003, I am an immigrant, I was born in Puebla, Mexico and arrived to Brooklyn New York when I was 21yrs.

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.

As I mentioned before, I arrived from Mexico while I was 21, living in Brooklyn NY struggling trying to find a job where nobody knew me, learning and speak a new language, finally, after a few months I found a job in a restaurant where I can't stay less then a month, I had an accident, I burn my right foot with hot water and because I had no health insurance at that time I had to walk away from doctor's office, I was frustrated for months, finally a few years later I started to have access to full Health Coverage,.

I have family in CT., 2 brothers and their wives with out health insurance and I see how they suffering when they got sick and not having medical coverage.

Members of this committee, for years, I have been working in the State of Connecticut doing community services, I am a Director & Founder of the Latino Advocacy Foundation of Fairfield County and former City Council from the City of Bridgeport, it is cruel and inhuman when you see people crying at the hospitals requesting medical services due a serious health problem or see them walk away from the state office trying to apply for public medical coverage, many times they prefer not visit a hospital o doctor's office, and I am sure that will cost more money to the State Last year during the COVID-19 PANDEMIC, hundreds of persons decided to stay home then get the COVID test, why? Because they were afraid of no medical coverage and a lot of them died. Working closely with the Mexican Consulate, they received about 1,000 cases of deaths at hospitals in CT, without adding the rest of our community.

It is really uncomfortable see why immigrants have no access to many benefits when we all know a lot of them paying & filling local, state and federal taxes and they do not received any refund, they are a very hard working people, life of many of these people will change if we, together, support this bill.

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.

Jose R Casco.  
Executive Director & Founder  
L.A.F.F.