

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

My name is Kate Conetta, I am a resident from Danbury, CT.

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 a member of a community with a large immigrant population, including those who are undocumented, it is important that friends and families in my community have consistent access to healthcare. I know we are only as strong and healthy as our most vulnerable members.

Much like the situation with access to financial aid for higher education (the bill passed by the assembly in 2018 and signed into law by Governor Malloy), we need to continue the work of expanding access to the people who pay in to our system, regardless of immigration status. Undocumented immigrants contribute millions in taxes, and should be eligible for the same level of service as any other taxpaying group.

This pandemic has further shined a light on the inequities of our systems. Many of the people we have identified as essential workers are disenfranchised from our current systems. Though they continue to contribute in myriad ways that support all of us and put their own health at risk, we have failed to support them as full community members. Now is the time to correct this injustice, and ensuring access to stable and affordable healthcare would be a big step forward in this goal.

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 urge the committee to support this legislation.

Thank you for your time,
Kate Conetta
Danbury, CT