

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

My name is Tom Connolly and I am writing in support of HUSKY 4 Immigrants Bill SB956 but with modifications. I support including ALL CT residents that qualify under the full current HUSKY eligibility. Low-income parents and children under HUSKY A and low-income elderly and people with disabilities under HUSKY C must be included.

My family could not trace how my grandparents on my mother's side came to the United States. They were undocumented. Some Irish immigrated to Canada and just moved to the United States for jobs. We are guessing this may be how my mother's parents got to the US. However they did get here, they were undocumented and their labor was needed.

Undocumented members of our community work and pay taxes. It is estimated that undocumented immigrants pay roughly 145 million dollars in state and local taxes every year. It is also beneficial for CT to provide health care. Early treatment reduces the cost to the state in the form of visits to the emergency room and reduces long term care. Not having coverage, especially in the midst of the pandemic, is causing real hardship and endangers the immigrant community and the entire community.

Connecticut is the one of the richest states in the United States making it one of the richest in the world. Within that context, health care is one of those moral issues that seems to get lost in political debates. We can afford to provide health care for all undocumented immigrants in CT. We have the resources. It is morally the right thing to do. All we need is the political will and courage to do the right thing.

Thank you for taken time to read my testimony.

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