

Distinguished members of the Human Services Committee of Connecticut:

My name is Dunia Dominguez, I am from New Haven, Connecticut. I am involved with the Semilla Collective.

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.

I used to work in a card factory, I developed terrible back pain after working there for many years. I did not have enough money or access to affordable medical care. I could not have the surgery I needed, which cost \$20,000. The pain worsened and extended to my shoulder and arm. My work did not give me any help, and eventually I lost my job. I have been without work for five years and my husband recently lost his job in a restaurant due to the pandemic. The only people in my household who have health insurance and my children. We have been lucky to not get sick because we would have to go into debt. We live in fear.

My brother was stabbed and spent a long time in the hospital and needed to be operated on. He lives with chronic pain due to the stabbing and medical procedure, and he owes more than \$20,000 to Yale. He cannot work as he wants to. He lives in debt and is unable to work.

I support SB 956 with modifications and hope that the committee will vote favorable. We are human beings and we need access.

Thank you for your time,
Dunia Dominguez, Colectivo Semilla