

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

My name is Marlene Edelstein, I am a Nurse Practitioner from New Haven, 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.

I work at a Federally Qualified Health Center and provide primary care for undocumented patients of all ages. Every day I see the negative impact of lack of access to health insurance. I have seen patients end up in the ER because they were unable to afford diagnostic imaging or treatments. I have seen children unnecessarily live with painful conditions that could be addressed with a simple surgery. Lack of access to medical care is not just immoral, it puts avoidable strain on our health system by reducing access to primary and preventative care. I care about this bill because I believe that healthcare is a human right.

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,

Marlene Edelstein, APRN
Resident of New Haven, CT