



Senator Moore, Representative Abercrombie, ranking members Berthel and Case, members of the committee,

I write in support of SB 956 which would expand Medicaid eligibility to individuals regardless of their immigration status. Limiting eligibility of healthcare based on immigration status is both morally wrong and practically foolish. Every resident of our state deserves dignity and respect, and they also deserve access to basic care and services. Undocumented immigrants contribute to our communities in countless ways and, despite myths to the contrary, contribute to local, state, and federal taxes that fund our government and programs such as Medicaid. Placing restrictions based on their immigration status is locking a group out of a program they are paying for and while the policy is arbitrary its effects are anything but. Reducing access to healthcare for people who need it, particularly as we are in the middle of a pandemic that has taken countless lives and disproportionately devastated Black and brown communities, is bad for everyone. And even if it weren't, the policy would still be wrong.

Our state should do everything it can to ensure that every resident has access to health care regardless of their age, immigration status, or any other factor. We should be making eligibility as expansive as we can, not limiting it to very few. For those of us in public office it is our sacred duty to serve all our people and turn our backs on no one. With this bill, our state would be opening its arms just a bit wider, caring just a bit more, supporting those who need it most. This is one step in the right direction, and there is so much more that must be done to help all of the residents of Connecticut.

Respectfully,

Mayor Justin Elicker  
City of New Haven