

Dear members of the human service committee of connecticut general assembly.

My name is Oliva Ellington, I am a student here in Stamford, and 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 my family and I immigrated to America, we started off very financially unstable, and it was only thanks to Husky that both my father and I were able to have health insurance under his low income. However as time went on it seemed as though Husky began questioning our immigration status, which then led to them taking away our insurance for months at a time before “confirming” whether we were really residents at the time. This affected us greatly as at that time my father was experiencing a lot of health issues, and desperately needed to be seen by a doctor. But, due to the circumstances my father was left to suffer for weeks as he feared the cost of medical care without the help of insurance. After such a troubling time my father worked hard to gain his citizenship to avoid these struggles in the future, yet Husky still did not trust us. As I was also experiencing health issues during this time, Husky took away my insurance because they had claimed they no longer had proof that I was a citizen. If this bill had been put in place long ago it would have aided both my father and I. We wouldn't have had to suffer for weeks on end because of Husky's mistrust in our immigration status, and I can only imagine the amount of people that it can help in an even less fortunate situation. And that is why I am in support of 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,
Olivia Ellington