

Dear Co-Chairs Catherine Abercrombie and Marilyn Moore, Vice-Chairs Matt Lesser and Jane Garibay, Ranking Members Eric Bethel and Jay Case, and Members of the Human Services Committee,

My name is Timothy Gabriele. I am a resident of North Haven, CT and I am testifying to express my support for SB 956 An Act Providing Medical Assistance to Certain Individuals Regardless of Immigration Status, but in amended form to expand access further. The language in the bill should be amended to reflect the more inclusive aspects HB-6334, which also includes parents and children covered under HUSKY A and the disabled and elderly individuals covered by HUSKY C. SB-956 should be sure its language includes all immigrants covered under HUSKY A,B,C, and D.

Our undocumented neighbors contribute to our communities, pay taxes, and are imbued like the rest of us with inalienable human rights, yet many are unable to access healthcare at the moment. Immigrants deserve to take advantage of programs they pay into like HUSKY and get the health coverage they deserve. Around 52% of CT's immigrant population are uninsured.

Not only is denying people healthcare a major infringement on their freedom and a form harm induction via the weaponization of bureaucracy, but, as we've seen with the recent COVID-19 pandemic, it can have serious public health effects as well. CT immigrants have felt the effects of COVID-19 harder than others, particularly as many are employed as frontline essential workers. In addition, preventive care and routine checkups windup saving money for the healthcare system in the long run by making sure that symptoms don't develop into comorbidities and complications that wind up being more expensive, at costs frequently passed on to both the government and providers when patients are unable to pay.

The best long-term solution to issues like these would be for our national representatives to get on board in sponsoring The Medicare for All Act of 2021 when it is introduced, an act which would transition the United States to a single-payer national healthcare system which would be top-of-class in the entire world, and would provide comprehensive coverage to every individual regardless of immigration status. In the absence of this committee's power to render that decision for our national representatives, improvements to the current system, such as allowing undocumented folks in CT to qualify for HUSKY, is the least we can do to ensure the safety and good health of our least fortunate neighbors.

I hope the committee and Connecticut lawmakers agree with me and over [300 CT Medical professionals](#) that SB-956 deserves passage. I urge you to pass this legislation, and to consider expanding its language to include coverage under HUSKY A, B, C, and D. I thank the committee for their time.

Sincerely,
Timothy Gabriele
North Haven, CT