

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

My name is Sam Giffin, I am a resident from New Haven.

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.

My ancestors were immigrants to New England. They came on the Mayflower in 1620. Through violence and disease, my ancestors and their cohorts were part of the great American tragedy of the decimation of indigenous Americans; entire cultures and communities.

Yet at some point, many decided that those immigrants, my ancestors, were worthy and legitimate, despite the destruction that followed their arrival. At the same time, many have decided that more recent immigrants, who pay taxes, support economic growth, and more importantly are part of the fabric of our American society, are unworthy.

The bitter irony is, many indigenous Americans provided critical assistance that allowed my ancestors to survive, despite the threats, disease, and violence they brought with them.

S.B. 956 corrects one of the most basic of wrongdoings: refusing to provide for someone because of how or when they immigrated to Connecticut. I would not be here if the indigenous people that greeted my ancestors had had the same tendency.

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,

Sam Giffin   
Resident of New Haven

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Supporter of Make the Road Connecticut

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