

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB956
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE OF CT GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

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

My name is Oralis Guzman, I am a mother who lives in Hartford CT and I am undocumented.

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.

With my son it's been very challenging for him to not have health insurance. He has asthma and his medicine costs \$300. Specialists didn't want to see him because he doesn't have HUSKY. For me personally, I have so many medical bills. Some I try to pay \$20 or \$50 a month. Often we have to choose whether to pay for medical bills or medicine, or pay our bills. Sometimes we have had to borrow money to keep up with the debts. Even in the pandemic, they keep calling for their money. I owe \$6000 to the hospital because of a medical emergency I suffered. I had strong headaches and couldn't stand up, they had to take me in an ambulance. I couldn't breathe. Because I don't have insurance, they took a long time to see me once I got to the hospital. I had pneumonia and had to spend 2 days in the hospital. The whole time in the hospital they treat you differently because you don't have insurance.

My husband doesn't go to the doctor and lives with pain. One time he had a piece of metal hit him in the eye at work and he had to go to the hospital. It was so expensive that anything he was able to make working had to go to medical bills. I am supposed to get a pap smear, it's been 4 years since the last time I had one. I am waiting for a program so that I don't have to pay.

Living without health insurance makes me anxious and depressed. I worry that one of us will get very sick and we won't know what to do.

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,

Oralis Guzman

Member of Hartford Deportation Defense