

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

My name is Anghy Idrovo Castillo. I am a resident from Danbury 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.

I was born in Cuenca, Ecuador and migrated to the states when I was 12 years old with my parents and younger siblings. Most people think the only barrier that the undocumented community faces is access to higher education. Truth is that our community faces multiple barriers trying to access basic human rights like healthcare.

My family and I have been living in the United States for over 12 years. Since our arrival we have always relied on over the counter medicine and homemade remedies. Before turning 18 my siblings and I were part of this free children's clinic where we only had access to annual check-ups but nothing beyond that. Throughout my middle school and high school years my parents never visited a doctor or had a yearly check-up. First because their income did not allow them to spend beyond rent, food, clothes and school items but also because they never qualified for any medical insurance program.

On multiple occasions we had intense stomach, bone, teeth and muscular pain. Regardless of our pain we refused to go to the emergency room. We knew that a visit to the ER would leave us in debt as we don't have access to any health insurance. We never had a primary care doctor. Today I am most concerned about my mother 49 and my father 52. Even though at this moment my father holds a healthcare insurance card thanks to his current job I know that his situation can change in years, months or days as he can get laid off, have an accident or just decide to not work in his job anymore. My father has only had his insurance card for a year and a half and it has been a blessing to him as he has been able to seek primary care and have specific check-ups like prostate and heart check ups. My father's situation is a very unique one and I know that many undocumented workers don't have this opportunity. I believe not having access to healthcare is dehumanizing and that neither my dad nor anyone else should wait until they're over 50 years old for a miracle to happen in order for them to access basic human needs. On the other hand, my brother who is 21 has been recently diagnosed with asthma in which the doctor said that it could be due to the after effects of COVID which he had earlier this year, his medicine is over \$300 when his weekly income is half that amount.

Having access to health care will give my family and community the opportunity to live a long healthy life which in no way should be a privilege. Today, I hope my family's story and my community's one impact on you and that this Human Services committee raises SB956 in favor. Again 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,

Anghy Idrovo Castillo
Co-Director
CT Students for a Dream
www.ct4adream.org