

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

My name is Aven Kelley. I am an undergraduate student at the University of Connecticut. I am expressing my support of Raised S.B. No. 956 AN ACT PROVIDING MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TO CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS, but with modifications. Raised S.B. 956 as currently written leaves out many in our immigrant community; it leaves out low-income parents and children under HUSKY A, and low-income elderly and disabled folks under HUSKY C. I support modifying SB956 to include all Connecticut residents that qualify under the full current HUSKY eligibility.

Access to healthcare is extremely important to me. Equal access to healthcare can fundamentally change people's lives. I have had close friends who have struggled to gain access to the healthcare that they've needed for various reasons, one of those reasons being immigration status. They have been afraid of having a medical emergency that they wouldn't be able to pay for or being turned away from a healthcare center for not having insurance. Having access to insurance coverage would alleviate a lot of their worries.

That is why I support Raised S.B. 956. I know that there are a lot of people who, like my friends, have struggled to gain access to healthcare because of their immigration status. This bill could change the lives of so many people for the better. The bill could still be improved to cover even more people, and I hope the committee makes those changes.

Thank you for your time and your consideration,

Aven Kelley (they/them/theirs)

University of Connecticut