

# **Testimony In Support of S.B. No.956: “AN ACT PROVIDING MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TO CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS”**

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

My name is Jihoon Kim, I am a physician specializing in psychiatry at Yale-New Haven Hospital, and a resident from New Haven.

I stand in support of SB956: AN ACT PROVIDING MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TO CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS, but with modifications. SB956 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 CT residents that qualify under the full current HUSKY eligibility.

During my time as a resident physician at Yale-New Haven Hospital, I have witnessed multiple undocumented patients who could not get medical assistance due to their immigration status. I remember one undocumented patient from Ethiopia who has been living in CT for 10 years, who developed schizophrenia and started having delusions that he is being followed by strangers and hearing voices that tells himself to hurt himself or others. Due to these distressing symptoms, he has been refusing to eat due to concern that his food is poisoned, and has not been able to take care of himself. However, due to his immigration status, he could not get proper psychiatric care he needed. I was very concerned that he will either hurt himself, starve to death, or commit suicide due to the voices he is hearing. I was also concerned that he might hurt someone else due to the inadequate treatment. With modified SB956, I would be able to prevent this from happening in future, and potentially save numerous lives.

I support S.B. No 956 with the modifications above, and hope the committee will make those changes.

Thank you for your time,  
Jihoon Kim, MD, MSc  
Resident Physician, Department of Psychiatry, Yale University School of Medicine