

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

My name is Trevor Madore, I am a current graduate student at the University of Connecticut, and I grew up in Milford. While I am documented, I am providing this testimony because no one in our state should go without access to healthcare.

Therefore, 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.

Having been a resident of CT throughout my life, I have grown increasingly aware of the disparities that exist within our state. Whether regarding income, quality education, security, or healthcare, CT is far from ensuring everyone in our state has equitable access. In Milford, I can drive 15 minutes down 95 in either direction, and be confronted with the reality that not everyone grows up in an environment like I did. While I once thought segregation was a thing of the past, in many ways, it seems to be alive and well in our state. With the passage of S.B. No. 956, we would be one step closer to closing these equity gaps.

Regarding some of my identities, I am white and my siblings and I grew up middle class. As a child I never thought of going to annual doctor and dentist appointments as a privilege. Every year, my pediatrician would ensure I was healthily developing, and every six months, a dentist would provide oral care. It is a tragedy to think that many children grow up in our state, unable to access basic healthcare services - simply because of their immigration status. With the passage of S.B. No. 956, more children in our state would have access to essential, formative healthcare services.

As an adult, I have learned consistent access to healthcare is equally important. During my last routine check-up, my PCP noticed an alarmingly high cholesterol level, which has prompted me to address this health issue before it continues to worsen. If I did not have the health insurance to afford that appointment, I would be continuing down that path in dangerous ignorance. Surely, regarding our health, preventative care is more effective than reactionary care - but without access to health insurance, many undocumented residents in our communities are essentially barred from prevention services. With the passage of S.B. No. 956, not only would we be expanding healthcare access, but we also would be further investing in preventive care.

Lastly, I know undocumented residents pay millions of dollars into federal, state, and local taxes each year. With the passage of S.B. No. 956, undocumented residents in CT would actually be eligible to receive more of the services their taxes fund.

For these stated reasons and more, 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,

Trevor Madore

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Educator in Higher Education  
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Former Resident of Milford