

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

My name is Claudia Marin; I am a Social Work student at Southern Connecticut State University from Trumbull, CT.

I stand in support of S.B. No. 956: “AN ACT PROVIDING MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TO CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS,” that extends eligibility to all HUSKY programs to all CT residents, regardless of immigration status.

I am Colombian and have been in the United States for about 29 years. I am currently attending college pursuing a Master's degree in Social Work. I am a legal immigrant who lost her sixteen years of a job after a car accident in 2014. I was thrilled to have access to HUSKY after losing the insurance through my employment. I faced many personal challenges and relief, knowing that I did not have to worry about health insurance.

In 2018, I worked in a mental health organization and experienced undocumented immigrants' suffer because of the lack of health insurance. As a future social worker, it was heartbreaking to tell them that I could not assist if they did not have health insurance. I am a believer that health insurance is a human right. I highly encourage the legislature to do more beyond S.B. No. 956.

Undocumented immigrants without health insurance have raised different issues over the years. If the undocumented immigrants achieve health insurance, they would regularly go to the doctor and be treated, preventing serious consequences and excessive bill amounts. In the long run, everyone would benefit because if someone got ill with an infection like tuberculosis (TB) and treated appropriately, it would avoid a public health risk like the one we are having with the COVID-19. The current pandemic got out of control. Undocumented immigrants should also have the opportunity to pay monthly to a private insurance company and go to doctor's visits regularly.

I support S.B. No 956 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,
Claudia Marin