

March 11, 2021

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

My name is Alison and I am a student at the University of Connecticut. I have been living in Connecticut for twenty three years as an undocumented immigrant. I am 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 for all Connecticut residents, regardless of immigration status.

There is history in this country of denying immigrants healthcare and a pathway to citizenship which stems from racism and xenophobia that was supported by eugenics. Some examples include the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, and anti-immigrant explicit actions that kept anyone out who was not connected to being white, Anglo-Saxon, and Protestant starting in 1896 with European migration. I name this because anti-immigrant sentiments still exist today and they reinforce that as immigrants we should not have a say in our health and autonomy over our bodies. At the end of my testimony I include citations for further readings to support the information I provided about anti-immigrant policies and their tie to eugenics in case anyone is interested in them.

Denying immigrants access to afford our doctor visits devalues our existence and shows that our survival is not of importance as if we were simply disposable. I see this with the jobs immigrants take at restaurants, hotels and really any place where our labor and productivity is of demand but not our humanity. That is the message I receive when my immigrant parents continue to clean people's homes and places of work to make ends meet but cannot prioritize or afford their preventative health care visits. Every time my dad's health declines I worry that his doctor visits will become more unaffordable. I always wonder if my mom's Lymphoma cancer could have been prevented had money and time been more available in order to give closer attention to her health. My concerns have especially grown since the covid-19 pandemic started, seeing as how undocumented immigrants are kept out of Covid-19 relief programs but are essential workers.

Giving all immigrants regardless of immigration status access to healthcare would give us one less thing to worry about. I support S.B. No 956, with clear language to extend current HUSKY eligibility rules to all CT residents, regardless of immigration status. I ask the committee to support this legislation too.

Thank you for your time,

Alison Martinez Carrasco

For further reading:

Jeynes, William H. 2011. Race, Racism, and Darwinism. *Education and Urban Society*, 43(5): 535-559.

Chen, Michelle. 2015. Fit for Citizenship?: The Eugenics Movement and Immigration Policy. *62(2):73-86.*