

Testimony for 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 Alysia M. Mascolo. I am a dentist practicing in New Haven and East Haven Connecticut. I am also in the Advanced Professional MPH program at Yale University.

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.

I am a child of immigrants. While my parents have moved far from their roots and grown into the American dream, health insurance remains a constant thought on their minds. Thirty years later they are consciously reminded as a friend of our family, a mother, decided to climb into an Uber to the hospital. Her shin bones jagged and poking through her skin. The thought of paying for an ambulance is more crippling than the fall she just took.

“I don’t have health insurance, please give me the cheapest option”

This is a frequent phrase I hear, and the cheapest option is a patchwork of dentistry. Access to HUSKY not only gives them an opportunity to take care of overall health but subsequently improve their dental health. This access is a preventative strategy that leads to an overall healthier Connecticut, a goal that transcends status.

I have patients that have not seen the dentist in fourteen or more years. Their teeth are caked in calculus and decay permeates in multiple teeth. I see them for the first time because this is the first time they ever had access to dental insurance. This is unacceptable: the loss of work productivity for the state, the ability to prevent all of this this, and reflection on the health of Connecticut warrants action.

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,
Alysia M. Mascolo DDS