

Errol V. Mesquita

3/9/21

Senate Bill 956 – An Act Providing Medical Assistance to Certain Individuals Regardless of Immigration Status

Dear Co-chair Senator Moore, and House Representative Abercrombie,

My name is Errol V. Mesquita , I am a Bloomfield resident, and I am currently obtaining my master's degree in Social Work at the University of Connecticut. I strongly support [Senate Bill 956](#) and the provision of medical assistance to certain individuals regardless of their immigration status. It has been reported that [there](#) are about 140,000 undocumented immigrants living in Connecticut. Within that 140,000, most identify as Hispanic or Latinx. Husky Medicaid is known for providing comprehensive health care with basic benefits such as preventive care, doctor visitations, women's health care, and other essential resources required to provide an adequate lifestyle. However, marginalized communities are constantly battling systematic barriers throughout their daily lives. The COVID –19 pandemic serves as another barrier of their daily stresses. Excluding this community out of Medicaid coverage will not only cause detrimental damage to our communities, but it will also prolong the fight against COVID within our state. A small quote from our Statue of Liberty states, *“Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free”* Currently, in this Pandemic, marginalized communities are suffocating, and they are being hit the hardest. This country has a representation of being the melting pot of immigrants, families and individuals who sought for a brighter future when their “now” seemed dim. I believe we still are the land of golden opportunities. In this matter, there is a choice to provide life to that statement. With this decision, it is now time for the huddled masses that are yearning to breathe from the chokehold of several oppressions, to breathe freely.