

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

I, Gary Mummert of New Fairfield, CT, stand in support of SB956: AN ACT PROVIDING MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TO CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS, but with modifications. SB956 as currently written leaves out many in our immigrant community, it leaves out low-income parents and children under HUSKY A and low-income elderly and disabled folks under HUSKY C. I support modifying SB956 to include ALL CT residents that qualify under the full current HUSKY eligibility.

In Connecticut, undocumented immigrants are discriminated against in accessing health coverage. They are prohibited from buying into AccessHealth CT and are ineligible for Medicaid, Medicare, and other health coverage programs. Immigrant families cannot seek the proper health care needed. With 120,000 estimated undocumented immigrants in CT, this is a massive public health concern.

The COVID-19 public health crisis is magnifying the daily and systemic inequities that undocumented communities face. Lack of access to healthcare means that chronic health issues that could be treated develop into more serious conditions. Putting our immigrant community at risk for worse health outcomes if they become infected with COVID-19.

Extending HUSKY to all regardless of status will address the uninsured rate in Connecticut, allow your constituents to be able to receive the proper care and treatment they deserve, and ensure families and individuals are not at risk of economic insecurity as a result of seeking medical care.

I ask you to support SB956 to expand HUSKY coverage to all of our state's residents, regardless of immigration status.

I support S.B. No 956 with the modifications above, and hope the committee will make those changes.

Sincerely,

Gary L. Mummert