

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

My name is Lorenzo J. Munroe, and I am a Professional *Social Worker* in private practice and a resident of Norwalk, 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 for all HUSKY programs to all CT residents, regardless of immigration status.

I work as a child, adolescent and family psychotherapist in my private practice. Because I speak Spanish, I get countless numbers of referrals for families who are undocumented and have no mental health insurance for themselves or their children. Many of them fear being deported, and yet they are all hardworking and most pay taxes, and yet, they cannot get health/mental health insurance.

These families face real struggles. The adults are often essential workers and put themselves at risk to make a living in order to support their families. If they become infected by the Covid-19 virus, as many have, they have no medical benefits on which to fall back. Many incur very large hospital bills for going to the emergency rooms for help in alleviating their medical distress. The passage of this bill would greatly help the endless number of adults and children who become ill from the pandemic. It would relieve a great deal of stress that certainly doesn't help in their recovery from the virus. PLEASE HELP!

For these reasons 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,
Lorenzo J. Munroe, LCSW
Child, Adolescent and Family Psychotherapist