

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

My name is Jaime Myers-McPhail I am a resident of New Haven here 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.

For most of my life I did not have health care. Thankfully i was healthy, but lived with constant fear. What if I had an accident? In fact that happened my first semester of college. I was hit by a fast moving car while on foot, but i didn't seek proper treatment because I couldn't afford a hospital Bill. Years later I was finally able to get health care through the union and get checked out, but because I didn't treat my injuries I have chronic pain and mobility issues. And yet my case is a best case scenario compared to what many of my neighbors are facing.

This pandemic has shown us that it's not just an individual problem when someone can't go to the doctor, can't get checked out or access proper health care. It becomes a problem for the whole community. It also costs more when people have to put off preventive care then wind up in the emergency room for treatment when an issue becomes life threatening. We are past the point where we can financially, morally or from a public health standpoint justify excluding anyone from access to the health care they need.

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. Our Undocumented neighbors pay taxes, they keep our economy running and are part of our communities, and excluding them is not only morally wrong, it costs health, lives, AND dollars.

Thank you for your time,  
Jaime Myers-McPhail