

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 Elizabeth Nearing, I am a resident from New Haven.

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 have lived in New Haven, CT for 9 years. In 2016 a speeding SUV struck my body at 30-35mph while I was commuting home on my bicycle. I was flung onto the car, my helmet cracked his windshield. I collapsed onto the ground, unable to get up. I am alive and mobile because I was able to get the healthcare every person in our state deserves.

Last January I was diagnosed with pneumonia. I got better within weeks because my Husky care allowed me to get the diagnosis and medicine I needed to get better. Modern medicine does wonders, but only if we allow people access to it.

While my father was dying, we were able to get him palliative care through medical insurance. I cannot imagine the suffering he would have endured without it or the suffering caused by the absence of this necessary care.

This bill is an opportunity to reduce the unnecessary suffering of our neighbors. To give them the care each of you has when you or your family is hurting. This is especially vital in the time of pandemic. We cannot let our friends and neighbors suffer without access to healthcare.

If you do not sign this bill, our state is consciously inflicting unnecessary suffering to the undocumented community, to families, friends, and neighbors in their time of most 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.

Thank you for your time,

Elizabeth Nearing

New Haven, CT