

March 9, 2021

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

My name is Nadia Pearce, I am a school counselor from Bridgeport.

I 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.

Many of students in our school community who are undocumented, low-income, and disabled will not have access to healthcare if this change is not made. I appeal to the members of the Human Services Committee of CT General Assembly to investigate this matter to change this bill that will provide healthcare for so many of our students and their families. As we continue to navigate these difficult and hectic times with the Covid 19 pandemic, now is a sure time more than ever that such bold action is taken for healthcare for our most vulnerable student populations and their families.

I thank you in advance for taking the time to have a closer look at this issue and for what is at stake for our students, community, and their lives.

Sincerely,

Ms. Nadia C. Pearce, B.B.A., M. Ed

School Counselor

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Bridgeport School Counselors: Bridging School & Family, Leading to Student Success