

Testimony of Alicia Perez

Re: In support of SB 956 (with modifications)

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

My name is Alicia Perez and I am a resident and mother from New Haven. I stand in support of SB956: AN ACT PROVIDING MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TO CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS, but with clearer language to include ALL CT residents that qualify under the full current HUSKY eligibility.

In my case, I needed surgery because I broke my ankle, and for that, I needed help from a nurse and help for my children since I was unable to do anything. Since I lacked insurance, I had no such help, not even for my children who were small.

For three months, I was unable to do anything, and so I fell into depression and wanted to die. I cried because it felt awful. When I began to receive the bills, I started to look for help so as not to pay too much and they gave me a discount.

Now my hand hurts, but since I know X-rays are expensive, I have not sought help and I am bearing this pain. I have been like this for six months, and I do not really know what is happening with my hand.

This is why I am interested in being able to have public insurance to be able to get check-ups and studies also since I am diabetic and have to buy my medications.

Thank you,

Alicia Perez
Resident of New Haven
Collaborator with HAVEN Free Clinic