

Good morning,

My name is Orlena Piedra, I am a mother from New Haven and I do not have insurance because I am a migrant.

I support 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 their immigration status.

I am one of the people who support this noble proposal to have access to free insurance because I believe that the issue of health is quite important worldwide for everyone. Being healthy is a sign of productivity not only here but anywhere. We all have the right to have a dignified life with all the health services and whatever other service is necessary. I believe that this country is one of the countries that cares about health the most. However, I would like to share some of the experiences I have had regarding my healthcare options in the past in which I believe I felt rejected, denigrated and even mistreated. A few months ago, I had to go to the emergency room with severe pain in one of my feet. I had been in pain for months, I struggled to get a doctor's appointment, but was denied care because I did not have insurance. I insisted that I wanted to pay for the consultation, but they would not consider me. So my last option was to take the emergency option in which I went with a lot of pain. I went in around 12 o'clock to be attended to but I left almost at 10 o'clock at night. For the care I was given, I had to wait for about nine hours. It is frustrating to see how people with insurance pass quickly, some faster than others, and at the end to see the empty room and realize that you are marginalized and rejected. In terms of the care I was given, it was not more than 15 minutes that my checkup was done, the doctor did not even touch me in the area of the pain. She just said that I had a history of this pain at the clinic and that it was not serious. So it wasn't more than 10 or 15 minutes that I was seen in the emergency room and they sent me home with just some pills. I consider it a serious wrongdoing when I had to review the bill I was sent a month later, realizing that for that 10 minutes in which I consider I was not properly attended to, I have to pay \$1600. I am trying to cover the cost, but it's stretching me thin. With my son, I have had similar situations where I have asked for an appointment and to our disadvantage, the fact of not having documentation and not having insurance is a huge determinant to have access to healthcare. So I ask that through this proposal and through those who are presenting the bill, who are humane and aware of the importance of a good insurance, and of the importance of timely medical attention to make preventive and predictive measures so that we can have a health lives. I join this cause and ask you to please consider SB956 based on the fact that many people in this country suffer from many medical conditions and they cannot receive the care they need. That is all I wanted to say. Thank you for the time and space that you have not given him. Have a good day.

Orlena Piedra