

My name is Julia Plourde, and I would like to testify **IN SUPPORT** of SB 956, AN ACT PROVIDING MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TO CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS.

As a 4th year medical student living in New Britain, CT, I recognize that in a few short months I will be starting residency as a pediatric physician, and I will have a responsibility to care for all patients, regardless of race, income, or immigration status.

As it stands, undocumented immigrants are ineligible from HUSKY, the state's Medicaid program for low-income residents, or from purchasing private health insurance on Access Health CT. This includes 13,000 children in our state alone. These children, who I plan to serve as a health care provider, will instead have to rely upon under-resourced clinics and emergency care through hospitals.

During my time thus far as a health care provider, I have all seen the consequences of our patients delay health care, or allow their illnesses to go untreated. This causes catastrophic complications which may require expensive hospital-based care. Most importantly, these costly complications are ultimately financially supported by the state. Preventing disease and treating it early is the right approach to community health, from both a fiscal and moral perspective.

As a health care provider, I understand the devastating human consequences of restricting access to health care.

I ask you to support legislation that would remove immigration status from HUSKY eligibility rules and would finally allow our most vulnerable community members to access quality medical care. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,  
Julia Plourde