

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

My name is Tamanna Rahman and I am a nurse practitioner living in the Fair Haven neighborhood of New Haven, CT. 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 for all HUSKY programs to all CT residents, regardless of immigration status.

My family immigrated to this country from Bangladesh in the late 1970s, and their immigration status has fluctuated throughout their years here. Throughout my life, I have seen my parents and my community make healthcare decisions based on their lack of insurance - even decisions that have proven to be life or death. A family friend was so afraid of going to the doctor when they began having mysterious symptoms because of the cost of treatment that by the time she finally got her cancer diagnosis, it was far too late for any treatment at all; she died months later. My dad was diagnosed with diabetes 30 years ago, and used expired medications and test strips provided by others in the immigrant community because he could not afford actual care. Now I see my own patients making these types of dangerous and heartbreaking calculations: buy needed medication or make sure my kids have enough to eat? Sharing prescriptions without medical supervision, avoiding care as long as possible until they end up in the emergency room. Nobody living and working in this country should have to live like this. All human beings deserve access to safe, quality healthcare, no matter where they come from.

Last year my mom was diagnosed with cancer, and now that she is a citizen and lucky enough to have HUSKY, she was able to receive excellent treatment at Yale. Despite the enormous emotional and physical challenges of going through surgery, chemotherapy, radiation, and recovery, in the midst of a pandemic, the one thing we were all thankful for is that we didn't have the added burden and anxiety of a hospital bill that we'd never be able to pay. If my mom hadn't had HUSKY, I have no doubt that she would have delayed treatment, as she has so many other times in my life.

I can only hope that all my patients are able to receive quality care with dignity in Connecticut.

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.

I thank you for your time,

Tamanna Rahman, APRN  
Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner