

Dear Members of Human Services Committee of Connecticut:

My name is Adriana Rodriguez and I am from New Haven, Connecticut. I am involved with the Semilla Collective. 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 to all HUSKY programs to all CT residents, regardless of immigration status.

Husky offers security for my family, my children, but when they asked for our papers and personal data. I did not respond even though we desperately need healthcare. I declined to provide this information because I don't want to expose myself, I am scared that ICE will come to my house. This affects us a lot, my husband had to go to the hospital, you have to make payment plans and it's very expensive. He got a stomach infection, they sent us to Guilford, we waited six hours and almost went back to our house because they had us waiting for a long time. Finally they saw us and prescribed him medication. Before going to get treatment, we waited one week with this pain, taking natural remedies. Always we use these medications that were sent from Mexico, homemade remedies, cups of tea, pills, potions, because it costs so much for us to go to the doctor. We have no insurance.

It affects the whole family. Paying high costs to the hospital lowers our economic resources in our house. We have to think about food and eating less, lowering our use of electricity or gas, because we would have to pay all these costs. Instead of going to the doctor, we self medicate ourselves here in the house. On only one occasion, my husband got sick with a high temperature, a cough, we thought he got COVID then we went to the Fair Haven Clinic in New Haven to inspect him. We had to pay for the consultation and the medications, which cost \$600 in total.

It would mean a lot if this bill were passed. I am a woman that has not had a *pap smear or a mammogram*. I have to care for myself, and I know that it has to be done and a lot of time has passed but with the cost, I can't do it. My daughter is 11 years old and since she was born, I have not received this exam. I feel okay so far and what more can I do? I am undocumented and there's not a program in the State of Connecticut that takes care of us. We work for this state, doing food service jobs, working as farmworkers, construction workers, and taking care of children and the elderly, but who takes care of us when we get sick?

Us immigrants are always excluded from many things, not just health insurance. We are most affected by the pandemic but we are excluded from these programs. We are humans, we need access to healthcare. I urge the committee and CT lawmakers to support S.B. 956 this session to expand high-quality, dependable, and affordable health care by expanding access to HUSKY medicaid for all members of the undocumented community.

Thank you for your time,

Adriana Rodriguez, Semilla Collective