

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

My name is Antonia Rodríguez, I am a New Haven resident, I am an immigrant, and I am a mother of a family.

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.

I was born in Tlaxcala, Mexico, and I came to the United States nineteen years ago to give a better life to my daughter who I had to leave behind with my family when she was a year and a half years old to come here in search of a better life, but I never thought life here would be so difficult. Learning english has been really challenging and then there is also no access to anything, we cannot go to the doctor because we do not have insurance. Sometimes we have to pay thousands of dollars for a dental or medical service due to the fact of not having insurance and being a working class immigrant creates many barriers in advancing financially.

My partner suffers from many life threatening allergies. It’s especially difficult when we get sick, because when we go to a consultation, we have to pay about \$300 or \$350.00 for each consultation and not including the additional cost of the medicine. When we have to go to the doctor, we reduce expenses at home. As of this week I’ve limited the amount of food we eat, it gives me a lot of stress because I have to reduce expenses in my house, my food, use the car less to save gas. Each visit to the doctor is a minimum of \$300.00 plus any additional fees. Many times we wait until we have money to go to the doctor.

This health care project would help us a lot since it would be easier for us who do not have access. Having affordable health insurance I would have less stress in my life. We did not come to this country to steal from the community, we came to work very hard and enjoy the same liberties as any other individual. If we had access to HUSKY healthcare we would no longer have to wait until we have money to go to the doctor. If my partner has difficulties due to his allergies we would no longer put off seeking treatment to the point that he develops chronic conditions.

I support S.B. No 956, with rewritten language that clearly states the expansion of the current HUSKY eligibility rules to all CT residents, regardless of immigration status, and I ask the committee to support this legislation.

Thank you for your time,

Antonia Rodríguez