



March 10, 2021

**S.B. 956 "PROVIDING MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TO CERTAIN  
INDIVIDUALS REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS,"**

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

My name is Arvind Shaw, CEO for Generations Family Health Center, a rural FQHC that serves the Putnam, Danielson, Norwich and Willimantic communities. I am 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 am a resident from Eastford, and I am documented, but we used to be uninsured as most of us are when we first arrive to this country. Insurance is not essential if you are healthy, however due to hesitancy in using the medical system for routine health care we find out quickly that our children are falling behind in their immunizations and now have hurdles to attend school, and we all continue to lag behind in other healthcare outcomes as we age.

The care for the uninsured depends on a safety net that has been only partially funded for decades. Patients delays and reluctance to access treatment reduces choices for patients and often results in patients being treated in the wrong place and the wrong time and at the highest cost in the healthcare spectrum and with the worst possible outcomes.

I see this bill as leveling the playing field for all residents by providing equal access to timely health care services that are also preventative in nature. I see this bill as also providing our safety net providers with the additional funding so that the care that is being sought is coming from the communities in which the patients reside providing local solutions. Health care access is an essential piece of health equity and the sooner patients can be involved in their self-management, health promotional and disease prevention activities, the sooner the inflationary spiral of health costs and health premiums and costs can be addressed.

Thank you for allowing me to tell you why I think a healthy safety net is important for all of us.

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.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Arvind Shaw".

Arvind Shaw,  
CEO

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