

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

My name is Tif Shen, I am a resident of New Haven and a member of the Semilla Collective in New Haven.

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 have lived in Connecticut as an immigrant since 2012. Immigrants like me work here, contribute to our community, and pay taxes to the state. Yet, too often, we are left behind when it comes to our rights. This is especially true for those among us who are undocumented. I have had the privilege of having a state job with good health care. However, too many of us do not have such privilege and have to face painful decisions. Throughout the pandemic, it was painful to watch my friends and their families struggling financially, getting COVID, all the while not having proper access to health care. Expanding HUSKY would greatly relieve the suffering that many people in our community are dealing with daily.

I fully 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.

Thank you for your time,

Tif Shen, member of the Semilla Collective