

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

My name is Angie Soto, I am a student from New Haven. I am the daughter of undocumented immigrants,

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 am a New Haven resident, currently in my Senior Spring Semester at Wesleyan University. I have two younger siblings, age 17 and 9 who live with my two undocumented parents back in New Haven. My siblings and I are New Haven born and raised, and my parents have been here for a little over 25 years. My parents are hardworking individuals who chose to raise their children in New Haven because of the community it provided and the opportunities it provided. My parent's courage and determination is our motivation.

My siblings and I are privileged enough to receive Husky Health Insurance, but my parents are not. Neither of my parents have the security of health insurance under their belt. My parents have had to avoid hospital rooms for fear of being identified as an undocumented immigrant. They have had to make difficult decisions regarding their valuable bodies and lives, in which, at times, they have had to degrade themselves by not seeking medical support.

My parents are not able to go to the doctor if they feel sick, they simply make home remedies and hope for the best. Furthermore, the one time my father had to call and ambulance, my first worry was both his immigrant status and the payment method we would go about. This feeling of fear was unnecessary in a moment where our main thoughts should be about his health and his life.

I worry that my parents will consider to ignore their health issues, or take the chance to visit the doctors and then live in a constant state of insecurity about the payment that will have to be made.

Having access to health care would take an enormous weight off my parents shoulders', as well as mine. I worry about their health and how honest they are being with me about their well being. Having access to health care would ensure that they are doing the best they can to live a long and great life to keep being a part of their community of New Haven that they value so much. I would not have to worry about losing my parents for a simple medical issue that could have been addressed with basic health care.

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.

Thank you for your time and consideration,  
Angie Soto