

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

My name Eric Stephen, I am a law student at Yale Law School as well as a resident of New Haven.

I am writing to express my support for 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.

Throughout Connecticut, we have seen the toll that the recent COVID pandemic has taken on residents’ health, economic security, and social lives. It has inspired a moment of profound reflection not only about the nature of the human experience, but also about the roles and responsibilities of the state and its government in assuring that all residents are able to live without fear for their lives, safety, or well-being.

This Bill is of particular significance on that score because it helps Connecticut to realize two pivotal visions of justice that residents throughout the state share: first, that access to affordable healthcare is foundational to the security of one’s life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness; and second, that access to any resource should not be conditioned by arbitrary barriers, such as one’s immigration status.

This pandemic has forced us to reckon more deeply with the extent to which the visions of justice and equality that we as a state—as a community—value are truly embodied in our institutions and policies. I have heard from many in my community who are deeply affected by inequities in healthcare, perhaps most notably those who are undocumented and face insurmountable barriers in accessing even the most prevalent medications such as insulin. This Bill does significant work to begin the process of rectifying one instance where our current system is not reflecting our values as a state.

It is because of this that 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,
Eric Stephen
Student, Yale Law School