

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

My name is Tenaya Taylor. I am a resident in Hartford. 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.

“Without health, life is not life.” This quote, by the Buddha of all people, encapsulates the essential role that health plays in people being able to live successful, thriving lives. In order to ensure that *all* people in Connecticut are able to live such lives, *all* people need access to healthcare. A friend recently put off going to the doctor for weeks to take care of a cyst on her back because she was uninsured, instead consulting Google and Reddit, suffering needlessly at home when a quick trip to the doctor would have absolved her of the pain. The fear of crushing medical bills outweighed the literal pain she was in because she didn’t have insurance.

My friend’s story is one told over and over in the state of Connecticut, and only intensified when it comes to the case of Undocumented Americans. Undocumented residents of Connecticut pay nearly \$400 million in taxes and contribute in innumerable ways to our workforce and communities. These people deserve access to healthcare that other, documented individuals in Connecticut receive.

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,  
*Tenaya Taylor*