Dear Senator Marilyn Moore and Representative Catherine F. Abercrombie and distinguished members of the Connecticut General Assembly Human Services Committee:

My name is Stephen Varga and I live in New Britain CT, and I am a volunteer with the Greater Hartford Immigration Coalition (GHIC).

 I am here to support Bill SB 956: *AN ACT PROVIDING MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TO CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS*, but with modifications. SB 956 as currently written leaves out many in our immigrant community, it leaves out low-income parents and children under HUSKY A and low-income elderly and disabled persons under HUSKY C. I support modifying SB 956 to include all Connecticut residents that qualify under the full HUSKY eligibility.

Immigrant workers clean our hospitals, look after our young, take care of our sick and the elderly, cook meals in restaurants, pick vegetables, build or repair our houses, work in our factories, and much more. Their children attend school with our children. They are our neighbors. We pass them when we walk through the city or around the town. In sum, they are part of our Connecticut family. What most of the undocumented immigrants do not share is regular access to health care.

As a volunteer working with the Greater Hartford Immigration Coalition, I have had an opportunity to observe the effect the immigration status on lives of our clients. I have seen, and you have heard evidence of, how even those with good support systems are disadvantaged when it comes to receiving adequate health care.

We are nearing the time when we will be coming out of this devastating Covid-19 Pandemic. One thing we must take out of it is the importance of proper medical care and how we must in the future address the lack of such care for underserved populations. Good health care must be provided to all of the residents of Connecticut, regardless of their immigration status.

The road to address past wrongs can start with the passage of SB. 956 with appropriate modifications.

Sincerely,

Stephen Varga