

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB956  
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE OF CT GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

---

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

My name is Perla Villezcas, I am a undocumented mother that has lived in the city of Hartford CT since 2003.

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.

For three years, I have been with a deviated trachea due to the lack of health insurance. I have not been able to do an endoscopy because it is a very expensive process that costs around \$7000 just to start. Just think about if they give me medicine, or treatment or if I need an operation, the hospital will charge me even more.

What I worried the most is that it will get worse, or that one day I will not be able to breathe because I was not able to swallow the food I was eating. Therefore I prevent myself from eating hard food so that it does not happen. Because of that health issue I am experiencing I have lost 20 pounds. If there was Husky insurance and I had access to it then I would not have waited all this time to cure my health situation. It is very stressful every time I have to eat and think about that whenever I swallow the food I can be shocked with it. It is a very traumatic situation, I cannot enjoy myself eating outside in a restaurant because I am so scared to be shocked with the food I eat. That is the reason I prefer to say no when I get invited to go eat. It is a very traumatic situation for me.

I know people who have very serious problems like cancer, who are suffering more than I am, and are going through the same issues with the lack of medical

insurance and money to help them cover the expense to treat their illnesses or health issues. The state should give us health insurance.

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,

*Perla Villezcas*

Member of Hartford Deportation Defense