

Dear members of the Human Services committee,

I am a pediatric resident physician living in West Hartford, CT. I write to ask you to vote **in support of Senate Bill 956**, legislation being considered by the Human Services Committee that would expand HUSKY eligibility to all low-income CT residents, without regard to immigration status.

As a pediatric resident, I cannot overstate the importance and responsibility of insuring our state's children, particularly during a global health crisis. Undocumented immigrants are prohibited from participating in HUSKY, the state's Medicaid program for low-income residents, or from purchasing private health insurance on Access Health CT, the state marketplace established by the Affordable Care Act. There is an estimated 13,000 undocumented children in Connecticut. Our laws have eliminated the pathways to reliable health insurance for these undocumented children and their families. Instead, immigrant communities are forced to rely upon under-resourced clinics and emergency care through hospitals. These health resources are then not being reimbursed for providing care for these uninsured patients, further amplifying the scarcity of resources. These consequences are preventable, but the prescription must be written at the level of state policy.

Sincerely,
Lauren Weaver MD