

**Kristen Whitney Daniels, Connecticut #insulin4all Chapter Leader**  
**March 11, 2020**  
**Human Services Committee**

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

My name is Kristen Whitney-Daniels and I am the chapter leader of the Connecticut #insulin4all chapter and also a resident of Shelton, CT.

I stand in support of **S.B. 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.

Connecticut #insulin4all is a group of volunteer advocates raising awareness about the insulin price crisis and fighting for insulin pricing transparency and affordability in Connecticut. We do not accept pharmaceutical industry funding or any funds that would compromise or influence our ability to advocate.

As a group, we firmly believe that access to insulin and access to healthcare is a human right that should be afforded to all, regardless of immigration status.

Last year, the CT General Assembly passed an Act Concerning Diabetes and High Deductible Health Plans, which acknowledged the huge financial burden of diabetes on CT residents and capped the co-pays for individuals on certain insurance plans. However, this bill did not extend to everyone, namely the uninsured and underinsured. Approximately 52% of the undocumented community in CT is uninsured — that means that for a large portion of the undocumented community, this bill is completely inaccessible.

A study done of 50 pharmacies in Connecticut in 2019 saw the list price for a single vial of insulin cost anywhere between \$274.00-\$446.78. Most people with diabetes require multiple vials of insulin a month and some require more than one insulin for their care. It’s not surprising with those prices that out-of-pocket spending on only insulin for people with type one diabetes nearly doubled from 2012 to 2016, increasing from \$2900 to \$5700. For most individuals and families without insurance, this number is unfathomable burden.

S.B. 956 is an excellent start to ensuring that all have access to healthcare in CT, including the lifesaving medication that insulin is in the diabetes community. However, to truly ensure that all have access, the bill can be strengthened by making sure it all parts of HUSKY A, C, B, and D are made accessible to the undocumented community.

I respectfully ask the Human Services Committee to pass S.B. 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.

Sincerely,

Kristen Whitney-Daniels  
Connecticut #insulin4all Chapter Leader