

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

My name is Ashaureah Williams, I am a student at the University of Connecticut. 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.

This bill that would provide medical assistance to low-income residents regardless of immigration status.

I am from East Hartford CT and come from a family of immigrants. My family has worked hard to allow me to achieve the same dreams, they never were able to accomplish. Their immigration status always held them back from doing things, they struggled with access to many things-- one of them being healthcare. My family has endured the pain of a million injuries and serious life-threatening conditions because they couldn't the expensive costs of the hospital system. No one should ever have to feel intense pain because of cost or citizenship. A family's first reaction to anyone in pain shouldn't be that they don't have healthcare insurance. It shouldn't dictate whether a person dies, lives, or be in pain forever until they are able to afford it or can get insurance.

Healthcare is a human right, there shouldn't be a question of whether or not one receives access to inability to pay or immigration status. Sickness doesn't go away with no help or attention provided to it. The hospital shouldn't pick and choose who gets the necessary attention one needs. They are designed to help people, and when they don't due to income or immigration status it defeats the whole person. This makes the system inhumane, and so many families struggle due to this exact problem. Access to healthcare is also an economic issue, immigrants deserve a fair and equal opportunity to the programs that are funded. Without coverage, immigrant families will fall inexplicably into debt just because they wanted good health. Having access to healthcare will keep loved ones from dying or being in pain as they work themselves to death, in order to, keep food on the table. Access to healthcare will save money and lives, there should be no hesitation as to why this bill should be supported.

I support S.B. No 956, with clear language to extend current HUSKY eligibility rules to all CT and hope you all vote in favor.

Thank you for your time,
Ashaureah Williams