

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

My name is Ty Fernandes Wrenn, I am from Waterbury and a first-generation Nutmegger.

First and foremost, 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.

My mother immigrated from Portugal at 16 to this state and was undocumented until her adult years. I don't even want to think about how if she were injured at that young age, that under these current rules, her health would not be covered. She came in the 80s, sold the story of the American Dream, and here we are in 2020 and our state can't even cover those same immigrants coming to Connecticut dreaming for more for themselves and their families. My question is what must a person do to earn the right that is healthcare? Must they go to both high school during the day and then at night to learn English? Must they Americanize themselves to fit it? Must they work hours after night school, cleaning bathrooms to help with income? Must they rush into a marriage for a green card simply to stay in the country? I firmly believe healthcare is a human right for all. Who are mere humans to determine if a person lives or dies, suffers or thrives, all because of their relationship to the state just for some healthcare? The Connecticut I know is made up of immigrants, both documented and undocumented, and for the Connecticut I know, everyone deserves the safety and comfort of knowing that one bad accident might not end their career or livelihood.

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,

Muito obrigado e manter saud durante nesta pandemia.

Ty Fernandes Wrenn