

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

My name is Cindy Xinxin Du, and I am a 3rd year medical student at Yale University and a resident of New Haven. 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 for all HUSKY programs to all CT residents, regardless of immigration status.

Even though I have been in clinical medicine for only a few years, I have seen many CT residents do not have health insurance due to their immigration status. The amount of human suffering, such as delay in cancer treatment, delay in treatment of orthopedic surgeries, putting off routine care, not being able to access vaccines, I have seen in only a few years is enormous. In addition, these people are workers and parents in our communities, so improving their health would undoubtedly improve the health and wellbeing of other CT residents as well. Specifically, extending HUSKY to immigrant children, as many states such as NY have done, would be very efficacious for the prevention of disease across the child’s lifetime, and likely to be very inexpensive, as childhood vaccines are already available through federal programs and schools and other state funded institutions are likely spending more money on in-school health and dental programs for children with no other healthcare, which can be saved if these children can obtain health care at a more routine provider.

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,
Cindy Xinxin Du, Medical Student, Yale University