

Good morning,

My name is Tatiana Hernandez, I live in New Haven and this is my testimony.

I stand in support of S.B. No. 956: "AN ACT PROVIDING HEALTH CARE FOR CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS", with clear language that extends eligibility for all HUSKY programs to all CT residents, regardless of their immigration status.

For me it has been difficult not to have access to health insurance for my son who was not born in the United States. He is 12 years old, and when he was 6 years old he had an appendicitis operation. I received a debt of more than \$20 thousand dollars and because of the low income that I have for being an immigrant I had to seek help to pay off that debt.

At this present time, it is difficult to be able to take him for a routine consultation, the HAVEN Free Clinic still does not accept minors and to take him to another place they ask me many requirements to be able to have a low fee and he can be treated.

I have had procedures that thanks to the staff at the Haven Free Clinic and I have been able to be treated. However, I was referred to another clinic because I tested positive for tuberculosis. When they first did a test on my lungs, apparently everything was fine, but now I have another check-up to see what is happening and if I need treatment and I do not know how much I will have to pay. I am unemployed I just gave birth in January and I am barely getting by with the little that I could save. I hope that a decision will be made that will benefit us people with low economic resources since having free access to health care is a relief to many of us immigrants.

Thank you,
Tatiana Hernandez