

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

My name is Miranda Rector, and I am a Master of Public Health candidate at the Yale School of Public Health and a resident of New Haven, CT. 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.

Throughout my work in public health, I have learned precisely the difference that programs, such as those through HUSKY, can make in someone's life. It informs a person's decision to see a physician for preventative care, before a problem turns into a medical emergency. It informs a person's trust in our medical and public health system, a trust that must be instilled in everyone for public health programs to be truly successful. Immigrants, regardless of their immigration status, pay taxes that contribute to programs like these. They are a part of our community. We need their trust, and we need to do right by them by allowing them to access life-saving HUSKY programs.

I'm writing in support of this bill as not only a scholar of public health, but as someone who knows firsthand what it's like to have a loved one be uninsured in the event of a medical emergency. My family is still paying off the debt from a surgery my mom went through years ago while uninsured between jobs. HUSKY programs provide some of the highest quality insurance in the state of Connecticut, and everyone, regardless of their immigration status, deserves access to affordable medical care.

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,
Miranda Rector