



Dear Members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly:

The Dreamers Action Alliance is a group of faculty, staff, and students at Southern Connecticut State University working to support our undocumented students and their families. We are writing in support of S.B. 842: An Act Concerning Health Insurance and Health Care in Connecticut.

S.B. 842 will make health care equitable, dependable, and affordable by creating new public options for health insurance in our state. In this letter, we focus on the positive impact the bill will have on the lives and careers of undocumented students and their families.

Our undocumented students and their families do not have access to affordable health care options. Due to their immigration status they do not qualify for Husky, nor are they able to purchase health care from Access Health CT. These students have the option to purchase the student sickness plan sponsored by the CSCU system through Aetna. Unfortunately, the cost for that plan is \$10,990 per year, an amount that is certainly unaffordable for a college student.

As a result, our students have to go without health insurance. They have to forgo preventative care, which ultimately affects their ability to be successful in school. If a family member gets ill and is unable to work, the student has to choose between continuing their education or dropping out of school to financially support their family. All of this could be prevented if undocumented folks had access to affordable health care.

The aforementioned scenario is not hypothetical. We have had students drop out of school due to a health care issue that could have been prevented if they had access to affordable healthcare. Such setbacks in turn result in lower enrollments at Connecticut colleges and universities and ultimately hurt the state's economic prospects with so many lost academic and career opportunities to bolster Connecticut's future.

Furthermore, when people without insurance cannot pay for their care, hospitals and insurance companies pass the cost along to the rest of us. This proposal ensures that people have affordable health insurance and are able to get the medical treatment they need, which will bring down costs for everyone.

We urge the Committee and Connecticut lawmakers to support S.B. 842 this session to expand high-quality, dependable, and affordable health care by creating new public options for health insurance.

Signed,



Diane Ariza
Vice President for Diversity Equity, and Inclusion

Christine Barrett
Academic Advising

Betsy Beacom
Integrated Communications & Marketing

Laura Bower-Phipps
Department of Curriculum and Learning

Dian Brown-Albert
Multicultural Affairs

Yarelis Canales
Orientation, Transition & Family Engagement

Resha Cardone
Department of World Languages and Literatures

Marylou Conley
Integrated Communications & Marketing

Jenna Dunn
Residence Life

Marisa Ferraro
Department of Curriculum and Learning

Esteban Garcia
Finance & Administration

Dayana Lituma-Solis
Student Representative

Helen Marx
Department of Curriculum and Learning

Luciana McClure
Women's & Gender Studies Program

Simon McIntyre
Multicultural Affairs

Jessica Powell
Department of Curriculum and Learning



Salvatore Rizza
Orientation, Transition & Family Engagement

Anna Rivera-Alfaro
Finance & Administration

Carleen Roy-Butler
Academic Advising

Megan Rudne
Academic Advising

Michael Schindel
Office of International Education

Andrew Smyth
Department of English

Meredith Sinclair
Department of English

Dawn Stanton
University Access Programs

Villia Struyk
Integrated Communications & Marketing

Tracy Tyree
Vice President for Student Affairs