

Support of SB 1056 by Maggie Goodwin for National Organization for Women and as a resident of West Haven CT.

I offer this testimony in strong support of **SB 1056**, which will finally address the unrealistic income limits for **WOMEN** covered by Medicaid programs, HUSKY A, HUSKY C and HUSKY D in CT. Many **WOMAN** who just got a raise because of increased minimum wage income will be “**priced out**” of Medicaid coverage and will not be able to afford coverage thru access health under the current income guidelines. They will fall off what is referred to as the “**benefit cliff**”

The current income limits for HUSKY are just 82% of the Federal Poverty Level in most parts of the state. This is **\$885/month or \$10,620/year for a single person**. This is at **138% of the Federal Poverty Level** and **160% of the Federal Poverty Level**, for HUSKY D and HUSKY A adults, **\$17,785 per year for a single person**.

This bill provides the same income eligibility for **all** adults across all three main Medicaid programs, at **200% of the poverty level**. While this is still a relatively low level, with 200% of poverty for one person being **\$2148/month (\$25,776/year)**. **This is equitable and it is right and it is just and it is time for all low income residents in CT to have health care coverage when making less than \$15 an hour. The majority of these individuals are WOMEN.**

Thank you for your consideration.

NOTE: Please extend these benefits and the same income eligibility standards to **individuals regardless of immigration status and those disabled and those over 65 as well.**