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

My name is Karina Flores, I am a Student from New Britain.

I stand in support of S.B. 284: AN ACT INCREASING THE AGE FROM EIGHT TO EIGHTEEN YEARS FOR AN INCOME-ELIGIBLE PERSON TO OBTAIN MEDICAL ASSISTANCE REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS. Expanding access to HUSKY up to age 18 regardless of immigration status is an important step in ensuring our immigrant community has access to the healthcare we need. But our work doesn't end with expanding access up to age 18; we need to open access to HUSKY and healthcare to all immigrants of any age, including parents and adults.

I am a college student attending capital community college majoring in social services. I care about this issue because of the way it poorly affects not just the youth but also the elderly. Coming from a Hispanic household I firsthand witnessed the struggles my parents would have to go through just to be able to receive medical assistance. At times they wouldn't even go to the doctor's office for any checkups due to being low income and not having health insurance. My mother was first diagnosed with type 2 diabetes when I was 18 years old, a senior in high school. Unfortunately, she didn't have health insurance which was super hard to pay for medications and doctor visits which made me have to work extra hours to help her out. As humans we will never know when and why we are going to get sick, it's out of nature we will have health issues. It doesn't matter if you are young or not illnesses sneak up on you with no time frame attached therefore I say we all deserve to have a source of medical help. Immigration status does not determine how much of a human we are to those who are documented.

I support S.B. 284 and I ask the committee to support and pass this legislation it would be greatly appreciated by all those in need. Looking forward, I ask the committee to work towards opening access to all immigrants regardless of age.

Thank you for your time,

Karina Flores.