



CT MATERNAL AND CHILD
HEALTH COALITION

February 19, 2010

Dear Members of the Appropriations Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Marijane Carey. I live in Hamden and am a Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Consultant who manages the Connecticut MCH Coalition. This testimony is on behalf of the MCH Coalition, which is a representative group of health care providers, human service organizations and advocates working in concert with the state's maternal and child health population. The Coalition has over 195 members representing more than 78 organizations.

We are asking that you consider restoring coverage to HUSKY A parents by raising eligibility levels back to 201% of the federal poverty level (FPL), which for a family of three is an annual income of \$43,657.

We are advocating for this restoration of Medicaid coverage for HUSKY A parents for the following reasons:

- Restoring eligibility rates align parent and child eligibility, thereby eliminating confusion about which members of a family can have HUSKY coverage.
- Children are more likely to have insurance and to see a doctor if their parents are insured.
- More insured residents means less uncompensated care.
- Medicaid is likely the first "benefit cliff" that will be reached as the minimum wage increases.
- There are no affordable health insurance options for adults in this income range. The total out-of-pocket costs for purchasing coverage on AccessHealth with cost-sharing subsidies can be over 15% of a family's annual income.
- The MCH Coalition is committed to addressing health disparities occurring in Connecticut. Health disparities result from gaps in the quality of health and health care that mirror differences in socioeconomic status, racial and ethnic background, and education level. These disparities may stem from many factors, including accessibility of health care.ⁱ Therefore, raising the eligibility level to 201% of the FPL would help to level the playing field for health care coverage for some of the state's Black and Latino families and help to improve their health care status.

We hope the timely receipt of preventive and on-going care received by those who would be covered though restoring HUSKY A insurance to parents and the resulting cost savings it will generate guides your decision to restore health care coverage to HUSKY A parents by raising eligibility levels back to 201% of the federal poverty level.

Thank you.

ⁱ Minority Health, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, March 1, 2018, <https://www.niaid.nih.gov/research/minority-health>, February 18, 2020