



# Southern New England Conference

United Church of Christ

*Living the Love & Justice of Jesus*

*Hartford Office - 125 Sherman Street, Hartford, CT 06105  
Framingham Office - 1 Badger Road, Framingham, MA 01702*

**Testimony Regarding H.B. 6439: An Act Concerning the State Budget for the Biennium  
Ending June Thirtieth 2023 and Making Appropriations Therefor  
Submitted by, Michele Mudrick, Legislative Advocate  
Southern New England Conference United Church of Christ  
March 3, 2021**

Senator Osten, Representative Walker, Senator Hartley, Representative Dathan and distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee,

I am Michele Mudrick, Legislative Advocate for the Southern New England Conference United Church of Christ and member of the Medicaid Strategy Group, a coalition of Connecticut Medicaid advocates. I am writing today regarding House Bill 6439

I am writing on behalf of the 614 congregations and more than 120,000 people in our state's churches. In fact, the United Church of Christ (UCC) is the largest Protestant denomination in Connecticut. Nationally, the UCC has more than 5,700 congregations with nearly 1 million members. In 2007 the assembled delegates and ministers of the historic Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ met and voted on a Resolution that called upon the historic Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ to seek support for Universal Health Care/Universal Health Care Coverage in Connecticut.

We support everyone in Connecticut having access to quality, affordable healthcare with no interruptions in coverage. All Connecticut residents deserve preventive care, coverage for preexisting conditions, access to mental health, family planning and reproductive health care services.

The pandemic has made even clearer to us that we need health care available and affordable to all, and most especially to underserved communities, and communities of color. We strongly urge you to amend this budget to increase HUSKY A and D eligibility limits to 201% FPL so that lower income adults can access quality, affordable health care, create access to HUSKY programs for all income-eligible immigrants, remove the asset test added to the Medicaid Savings Program and restore cost of living increases for Connecticut's lowest income residents.

Health care is a racial justice issue. Before the pandemic, Connecticut's overall uninsured rate was 5.3%, but it reached 6.8% for Black residents and 13.1% for Hispanic or Latino residents. Today, the pandemic is sickening and killing Black, Latino and Native Americans at higher rates than whites, reflecting and compounding health care disparities that have long gone unaddressed.

Health Care is a basic human right. Health care should be provided when needed. All of God's people deserve access to affordable and quality healthcare.

Thank you for your work and the opportunity to supply written testimony in support of everyone in Connecticut having access to affordable, quality, healthcare.

Blessings,  
Michele Mudrick  
(860) 796-3822  
Mudrickm@sneucc.org



*Hartford Phone: 860-233-5564 Fax: 860-231-8111  
Framingham Phone: 508-875-5233 Fax: 508-875-5485*

[www.sneucc.org](http://www.sneucc.org)



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