

**Testimony Regarding H.B. 6439 An Act Concerning the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June Thirtieth 2023 and Making Appropriations Therefor:
Human Services**

Testimony of Jaime Myers-McPhail, New Haven, Connecticut.

Appropriations Committee
Wednesday, March 3rd 2021

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

My name is Jaime Myers-McPhail and I am a constituent from New Haven and organize and volunteer with the DTC, labor unions and grassroots community groups that have worked for years to increase voter participation and expand the electorate in New Haven. As a member of Interfaith Fellowship for Universal Health Care, the Medicaid Strategy Group, and ally of CT Students for a Dream, I am testifying regarding the Governor's Proposed FY 2022-2023 Budget for Human Services. And calling for the State to protect and expand access to HUSKY for all residents, regardless of immigration status. Like many sensible progressive policies, this is not only the right and moral thing to do, it is also the economically sound thing to do, as well as a matter of broader public health.

Immigrants not only pay taxes without being able to access services and aid, but when they're forced to go to the emergency room after foregoing preventive care or lesser treatment, it costs the state and taxpayers anyway. So why not make the investment now to save money AND lives going forward? We need to stop seeing red, stop being so shortsighted and getting ourselves further into this whole that is exacerbating already crisis level inequality, and costing health and lives.

I strongly urge you to amend this budget to:

- Increase HUSKY A and D eligibility limites 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
- Restore cost of living increases for Connecticut's lowest income reside

Thank you,

Jaime Myers-McPhail

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