



TO: Human Services Committee
FROM: Samantha Bell, CT Community Nonprofit Alliance
RE: S.B. 1053 AN ACT EXPANDING MEDICAID AND HUSKY B COVERAGE FOR CHILDREN

Good afternoon Senator Moore, Representative Abercrombie, Senator Logan, Representative Case and distinguished members of the Human Services Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of S.B. 1053 An Act Expanding Medicaid and Husky B Coverage for Children.

My name is Samantha Bell, Public Policy Intern, at the CT Community Nonprofit Alliance (The Alliance). The Alliance is Connecticut's statewide advocacy organization representing nonprofits, with a membership of more than 300 community organizations and associations across the state. Nonprofits deliver essential community services to more than half a million people each year and employ almost 14% of Connecticut's workforce.

S.B. 1053 would expand Medicaid and Husky B coverage for children regardless of immigration status. A child's immigration status should not determine their access to much needed healthcare coverage. Many states including California, Illinois, Massachusetts, New York, Oregon, Washington and the District of Columbia have all expanded their Medicaid programs to provide insurance coverage to all income-eligible children, regardless of their immigration status. Expanding coverage provides the insured with preventative care, keeping children and their families from costly emergency room visits whenever possible.

Because community nonprofits serve and support Medicaid recipients as well as anyone who comes to their doors regardless of their ability to pay, The Alliance supports expanding Medicaid and Husky B coverage to include all income-eligible children, regardless of their immigration status. It is an important step in achieving equitable access to healthcare and establishing continuity of care, ensuring all children in Connecticut receive the best care possible.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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