

Dear Members of the Appropriations Committee,

I am a pediatrician who works in New Haven, CT and Chair of the Advocacy Committee for the CT Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. These are my personal views and do not reflect those of my employer.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify regarding HB 5048: AN ACT ADJUSTING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 2025.

I am writing to advocate for funding to increase the eligibility for the HUSKY Medicaid program to include all income eligible CT children, regardless of immigration status, up to age 18. In 2023, over 550 healthcare providers signed a letter to the CT General Assembly in support of expanding HUSKY Health to all income eligible immigrants in CT regardless of status or age.

[The American Academy of Pediatrics](#) advocates for all children regardless of immigration status to have access to healthcare. As pediatricians, every day we meet with patients and families to discuss the importance of diet, exercise, sleep, and so much more to prevent the development of chronic, debilitating, and life-threatening diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, and cancer.

Research shows that children who lack health insurance are less likely to see a doctor, less likely to have a usual source of care. They are more likely to postpone care due to cost and are more likely to go without care due to cost. Investing in healthcare for immigrant communities is an investment in the future of Connecticut and will reduce healthcare costs in the long run.

We know that the way children live today will impact their life for years to come. Therefore, it is critical that all children under the age of 18, regardless of immigration status, have access to medical care.

Thank you for taking the time to read my written testimony. I would be happy to answer any questions if helpful.

Sincerely,

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