

Undocumented Children Need Healthcare

Expanding Coverage to ALL poor Children

**Every child has the right to go to school.
Every child should have the right to healthcare.**

Connecticut provides healthcare coverage to the state's most vulnerable, low-income children, but leaves out undocumented, immigrant children.

California, Illinois, Massachusetts, New York, Washington, Oregon, and Washington DC have expanded their programs to cover all income-eligible children regardless of immigration status.

We must expand health coverage to undocumented children.

Why it matters: Uninsured children are much less likely to get necessary medical care, preventive care, or timely treatment for illness or injuries. Lack of access has broad implications: healthcare affects school performance, lifelong health, and future earning potential.

What Connecticut can do: Expanding coverage to undocumented children reduces the number of uninsured children, improves educational and health outcomes, reduces emergency room usage, and lowers uncompensated care for hospitals.

We must invest in the well-being of our next generation.

What would it cost? Projections based on other state programs show that expanding coverage to undocumented, low-income children would cost Connecticut \$2,482 per child. Approximately 17,000 undocumented children might be eligible to apply.

What are the benefits? In 2017, Connecticut hospitals provided \$1.66 billion in unreimbursed care and uncompensated care. Assuring medical access to all children reduces expensive, uncompensated emergency care, increases access to primary care and early detection of chronic disease, and has enormous long-term impact: improved academic success, higher rates of high school graduation, college attendance, future job prospects and income.

**Every child should have the right to access healthcare
and look forward to a safe, healthy, productive future.**