April 1, 2020

The Honorable Ned Lamont
Governor, State of Connecticut
210 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

Re: HUSKY Expansion to Undocumented Families

Dear Governor Lamont;

As front line healthcare providers, we are thankful for your swift and decisive leadership to direct medical care resources efficiently and effectively while enforcing measures that will undoubtedly save lives and "flatten the curve," reducing the burden of COVID-19 and protecting all who live in our state.

We are writing to request an additional urgent, life-saving measure that is crucial to preventing the spread of COVID-19:

Expand Husky A and B eligibility to all children and youth under 19 years of age and to their parents/guardians who would otherwise be eligible but for their immigration status.

This eligibility expansion is essential for the health of all undocumented immigrants as well as for public health and safety within our state. The need for all Connecticut's residents, regardless of immigration status, to have equitable and available access to health care has already been recognized by the U.S. Citizen and Immigration Services (USCIS):

"USCIS encourages all those, including aliens, with symptoms that resemble Coronavirus Disease 2019 (Covid-19) (fever, cough, shortness of breath) to seek necessary medical treatment or preventive services. Such treatment or preventive services will not negatively affect any alien as part of a future Public Charge analysis."

Given the existing framework of our state’s Medicaid system, how can undocumented immigrant children and their families seek health care without adequate coverage?

Without ready access to reliable healthcare, undocumented children and their families may feel uncomfortable or fearful about seeking medical care for their symptoms, and unintentionally spread COVID-19. They may seek care too late, and require higher levels of care which may add to the burden healthcare systems already overwhelmed by COVID-19.

Sadly, we have seen what happens during this pandemic when inaction and delay occur: COVID-19 infections rise, and cause higher rates of morbidity and mortality, especially to frontline medical providers and vulnerable populations.
A recent article in the *New England Journal of Medicine* makes the case clearly:

"The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) passed on March 18 provides coverage for Covid-19 testing for the uninsured through National Disaster Medical System reimbursements. This is welcome news but does not go far enough."

Without adequate access to health care, more Connecticut residents will succumb to COVID-19, spread the disease, and deplete our already-diminishing resource. Failure to expand health care access will risk not only their lives, but also ours as frontline healthcare workers.

Undocumented immigrant communities need access to HUSKY insurance immediately. We urge you to take swift action to protect the health of all of Connecticut's children and families.

**PLEASE expand HUSKY A and B eligibility to all otherwise eligible children and youth under 19 years of age and their parents/guardians regardless of their immigration status. Doing so will save lives.**

Sincerely,

cc: Deirdre Gifford, M.D., MPH – Department of Social Services
    Paul Mounds, Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor
    Jonathan Harris, Office of the Governor
    Vicky Veltri, Office of Healthcare Strategy
    The Honorable Andrew Mays, Commissioner Connecticut Insurance Department
    The Honorable Renée D Coleman-Mitchell, Commissioner Department Public of Health
    Sen. Martin Looney, Senate President Pro Tempore
    Sen. Bob Duff, Senate Majority Leader
    Rep. Joe Aresimowicz, Speaker of the House
    Rep. Matt Ritter, House Majority Leader
    Sen. Marilyn Moore, Co-Chair Human Services Committee
    Rep. Jonathan Steinberg, Co-Chair Public Health Committee
    Sen. Mary Abrams, Co-Chair Public Health Committee
    Sen. Matthew Lesser, Co-Chair Insurance Committee
    Rep. Sean Scanlon, Co-Chair Insurance Committee
1. Julia Rosenberg, MD, Yale University, Pediatrician
2. Andrea Asnes, MD, MSW
3. Hannah Rosenblum, MD Yale New Haven Hospital
4. Katherine Nash MD, Pediatrician, Yale University
5. Ralph Rosenberg MD
6. Jaclyn Portanova, PhD, MSG, RN, National Clinician Scholars Program, Yale
7. Emily Pinto Taylor, MD - Chief Resident, Internal Medicine, Yale New-Haven Hospital
8. Hilda Slivka MD
9. Frances Cheng, MD PhD, Yale School of Medicine
10. Michelle Salazar, MD - Yale School of Medicine
11. Jasmine L. Travers, PhD, RN
12. Cary P. Gross, MD, Professor of Medicine, Yale School of Medicine
13. Gretchen Berland, Associate Professor of Medicine, Yale
14. Elliott Miller, MD Yale
15. Eric J Brandt, MD - Yale School of Medicine
16. Louisa Holaday, MD, Yale University
17. Jake Rosenberg MD PhD
18. Jasmine Weiss, MD Yale School of Medicine
19. Shannon O'Malley, MD, Pediatrics at YNHH
20. Cherise Rowan, MD, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics Yale School of Medicine
21. Angela Martinez-Strengel, MD
22. Danice Kuruvilla, MD
23. Alexis Rudd, MD
24. Kathleen Felisca, MD, Yale-New Haven Medical Center
25. Magna Dias, MD; Chair of Pediatrics, Bridgeport Hospital
26. Henna Shaikh, MD
27. Joseph S. Ross, MD, MHS; Professor of Medicine and Public Health, Yale University
28. Nirali Butala, MD YNHH Pediatrics
29. Aaron Bennett MD, Yale Pediatrics
30. Hannah Fuson, MD, MS Yale Pediatrics
31. Heather Dahlquist, MD - Yale University Department of Pediatrics
32. Carl Malm, MD MPH, Yale-New Haven Hospital
33. Vicki K. Smetak, MD, Medical Director, Regional Strategy, Yale-New Haven Children's Hospital
34. Lyubina Yankova, MD, pediatrician
35. Adam Berkwitt, MD
36. Eunice DeFilippo MD Yale New Haven Hospital
37. Prisca Takundwa, MD
38. Katelyn Cusmano, MD
39. Joshua Pulinat MD PGY2 Yale Pediatrics
40. Chelsea Hartman, MD, Yale Pediatrics
41. Brielle Stanton, MD, Yale New Haven Hospital
42. Rachel Johnson, MD, Resident physician in pediatrics at Yale New Haven Hospital
43. Kristin Reese, MD, Yale New Haven Children's Hospital
44. Sharon R. Smith, MD; CT Children's Medical Center
45. Christine Skurkis, MD
46. Rahul Shah, MD
47. Andrew Oliver, MD - Yale Pediatrics Resident
48. Patricia Nogelo, LCSW
49. Benjamin A. Howell, MD, MPH, MHS; National Clinician Scholars Program, Yale School of Medicine
50. Heather A. Riggio - Fellowship & Residency Coordinator for Pediatrics at Yale
51. Juan Vasquez, MD, Yale Pediatric Hematology/Oncology
52. Stephanie Massaro, MD, MPH
53. Sarah N. Taylor, MD, MSCR, Associate Professor in Yale Department of Pediatrics
54. David Frumberg, MD, Yale Orthopaedics & Rehabilitation, Yale Pediatrics
55. Nina Kadan-Lottick, MD Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Yale
56. Eugene D. Shapiro, MD, Professor of Pediatrics, Yale School of Medicine
57. Ada Fenick, MD; Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Yale School of Medicine
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59. Lyn M Balsamo, PhD; Yale University School of Medicine
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62. Jordan Silberg, MD, Yale New Haven Children's Hospital
63. James Leckman, MD, PhD, Professor Yale Child Study Center
64. Charles C Duncan MD, Professor of Neurosurgery, Pediatrics and Surgery (Anatomy), Yale University
65. Jose Panisello, MD. Medical Director, Pediatric Critical Care, Yale-New Haven Hospital
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67. Elizabeth Drye, MD, SM, Yale School of Medicine, Department of Pediatrics
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71. Kirsten Bechtel MD Yale School of Medicine
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73. Alla Vash-Margita, MD Yale University School of Medicine, Pediatric Gynecology
74. Laura Nally, MD, FAAP, Pediatric Endocrinologist at Yale University
75. Emanuela M. Bruscia, Ph.D Associate Professor Department of Pediatrics
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78. Melissa Langhan, MD MHS, Associate Professor Yale University School of Medicine
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105. Emily Gritz, MD FAAP; Yale School of Medicine
106. Marie E Egan MD
107. Bennett A. Shaywitz, M.D. The Charles and Helen Schwab Professor in Dyslexia and Learning Development Co-Director, Yale Center for Dyslexia & Creativity
108. Lawrence Siew, MD
109. Sally E. Shaywitz, M.D., the Audrey G. Ratner Professor, Yale School of Medicine
110. Eliza Myers MD Yale Neonatology
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112. Marjorie S. Rosenthal, MD, pediatrician in New Haven
113. Alan Friedman MD
114. Katherine A. Kosiv, MD
115. Leslie Swiderski RN, LCSW Waterbury Health Access Program
116. Francine Testa, MD, Professor of Clinical Pediatrics and Neurology, Yale U. School of Medicine
117. Mark X Cicero MD, Yale
118. Andrew Sheldon, MD PhD
119. Anisha Patel, DO, Yale School of Medicine, Pediatric Endocrinology, Program Director
120. Nan Du, MD, Yale-New Haven Hospital
121. Susan D. Boulware, M.D., Assistant Professor of Clinical Pediatrics, Yale University School of Medicine
122. Joseph X. Canarie, MD (Yale Internal Medicine and Pediatrics)
123. Ruchika Karnik, MD
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125. E. Kevin Hall, MD, Yale University
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128. Michael P. Goldman, MD - Yale School of Medicine
129. Carl Baum, MD, FAAP, FACMT, Professor of Pediatrics and of Emergency Medicine, Yale School of Medicine
130. Susan Walsh, MD Yale New Haven Children’s Hospital
131. Katarzyna Chawarska, PHD, Professor of Child Psychiatry and Pediatrics, Yale School of Medicine
132. Ian Gross MD, Professor Emeritus of Pediatrics, Yale School of Medicine
133. Jaideep Talwalkar, MD, Associate Professor of Medicine & Pediatrics, Yale School of Medicine
134. Lauren Jeffries, DO
135. Jessica Takores, MD Pediatric Resident at Connecticut Children’s
136. Lauren Weaver, MD Pediatric Resident
137. Emma Taylor-Salmon, MD at Yale-New Haven Children's Hospital
138. Engin Deniz MD, Assistant Professor in Pediatrics, Yale School of Pediatrics
139. Nancy Presnick, DO UCONN/CT Children’s Pediatric Resident
140. Shannon O’Connor, MD, PhD
141. Annette Cameron M.D., FAAP
142. Julie Gaither, PhD, MPH, RN, Yale School of Medicine
143. Margret Sigurdardottir Blondal, MD (Pediatric Resident), Connecticut Childrens Medical Center
144. Kathleen Cardinale, MD, Yale Pediatrics
145. Dr. John Sooy, Connecticut Children’s Hospital Resident
146. Viven Solomon, DO
147. Jeffrey Yep
148. Arielle Spellun, MD, Yale School of Medicine, Yale University
149. Douglas Idelson, MD, MPH
150. Britton Keeshan MD, MPH
151. Rima Fawaz, MD
152. Asher Marks, MD
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154. Cheyenne Beach, MD, Yale University School of Medicine
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156. Lisa Grivalsky, Supervisor of Faculty Affairs, Yale Department of Pediatrics
157. Vinita Misra Knight, MD, MPH, (Yale Pediatric Neurologist)
158. Seth Woolf, MD, Yale New Haven Hospital and Yale University
159. Sybil Goodkin, RN, volunteer at Malta House of Care St Mary’s Hospital, Waterbury, CT
160. Rebecca Beagan, MD Yale New Haven Children’s Hospital
161. Alia Bazzy-Asaad, MD. Yale School of Medicine, Department of Pediatrics
162. Daniela Hochreiter, MD, Yale School of Medicine
163. Gabriella Izzo, MD
164. Cheryl Anderson MD, Yale Pediatrics
165. Myron Genel, MD, Professor(Emeritus) of Pediatrics, Yale University School of Medicine; member. Connecticut Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity & Opportunity
166. Marietta Vazquez, MD Professor Pediatrics Yale school of Medicine
167. Sarah Kandil MD, Yale New Haven Children's Hospital and Yale School of Medicine
168. Clifford W. Bogue, MD Professor and Chair, Pediatrics, Yale School of Medicine
169. Anthony Porto MD, MPH, Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Yale University
170. Susan Van Keuren, RPh
171. Tracy L. Rabin, MS, SM, Assistant Professor of Medicine, Yale University School of Medicine
172. Jennifer Haile MD CT children’s medical center
173. Lauren Dennehy, LCSW, Assistant Clinical Professor Yale Child Study Center
174. Leslie Elin Sude MD Yale University School of Medicine
175. Carla E. Marin, PhD, Yale Child Study Center
176. Molly Markowitz, MD
177. Jennifer Gereda LCSW
178. Windy Grant, MD (Yale New Haven Children's Hospital)
179. Amalia Londono Tobon, MD
180. Keitra Thompson, DNP, APRN, Yale NCSP
181. Meghan A. Wilson, MD, MPH (Pediatric Resident, Yale New Haven Children's Hospital)
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