



April 17, 2020

Dear Josh:

I wanted to forward the latest iteration of a letter that we previously sent to the Governor regarding a physician-led request to expand HUSKY insurance coverage to undocumented children, youth and families during the COVID-19 crisis. This is the third request we have sent to governor Lamont since he began issuing emergency orders, and the attached updated letter is signed by 239 physicians and other front-line clinicians who are treating the most vulnerable populations in the state. Below I've copied the prior email sent to Paul Mounds and other individuals from the executive branch.

Co-signatories of this email are Drs. Marietta Vazquez and Julia Rosenberg, both pediatricians and experts in immigrant healthcare. [Dr. Vazquez](#), a pediatric infectious disease specialist at Yale-New Haven Hospital, has been widely cited as an expert on the need to expand access and care for immigrant children, and has taken a lead role in espousing a strong stance both for expanding access to care for undocumented children and families, but also in [confronting the xenophobic and racially charged atmosphere surrounding the labeling of COVID-19](#). [Dr. Rosenberg](#) is a pediatrician and postdoctoral fellow who has also worked extensively on this issue and authored several pieces on policies [surrounding immigration and pediatric health](#).

The crux of our proposal is simple: the state's public health is at risk by having a vulnerable, uninsured population who are hesitant to seek testing, care and treatment during this crisis, which puts all stakeholders at greater risk. If the state is truly dedicated to "flattening the curve" and addressing all those who may be at risk from COVID-19, undocumented children and their families should be eligible *for the same access, care and treatment* as all other children and families. The cost of not insuring this population will have devastating downstream effects ... both in terms of physical and behavioral well-being, but also in terms of the financial cost of population that continues to be decimated by a lack of available and accessible healthcare services.

We urge the governor to continue his strong commitment to those who are most at-risk due to the COVID-19 crisis by issuing an executive order expanding HUSKY A & B eligibility to all of Connecticut's children and families, regardless of their immigration status, as soon as possible.

Thank you in advance for your consideration, and please don't hesitate to contact any one of us should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Marietta Vázquez, MD, FAAP
Professor of Pediatrics, Yale School of Medicine
Section of Pediatric Infectious Diseases & Global Health and General Pediatrics
Vice-Chair, Diversity Equity and Inclusion, Department of Pediatrics
Director Yale Children's Hispanic Clinic (Y-CHiC)

Yale School of Medicine
[330 Cedar Street, Box 208064](#)
[New Haven, CT 06520-8064](#)
Tel. [203-737-6018](#) (office)
[203-785-4730](#) (Inf Diseases Office)
fax [203-785-6961](#)

Julia Rosenberg, MD
Yale New Haven Hospital, Pediatrics
National Clinician Scholars Program
Yale University School of Medicine
Julia.Rosenberg@yale.edu
(860) 930 - 1702

Jay E. Sicklick

Jay E. Sicklick
Deputy Director
Center for Children's Advocacy
UCONN School of Law
65 Elizabeth St.
Hartford, CT 06105
860-570-5327 ext.257 (c) 860-712-8822
cca-ct.org



[MEDICAL-LEGAL PARTNERSHIP](#)

From: Jay Sicklick <JSicklick@cca-ct.org>

Sent: Monday, April 13, 2020 2:23 PM

To: Paul.mounds@ct.gov

Cc: deidre.gifford@ct.gov; commis.dss@ct.gov; jonathan.harris@ct.gov; Veltri, Victoria <Victoria.Veltri@ct.gov>; renee.coleman-mitchell@ct.gov; looney@senatedems.ct.gov; bob.duff@cga.ct.gov; Aresimowicz@cga.ct.gov; Rep. Ritter, Matthew <Matthew.Ritter@cga.ct.gov>; Moore@senatedems.ct.gov; marilynvmoores@aol.com; catherine.abercrombie@cga.ct.gov; Jonathan.Steinberg@cga.ct.gov; Abrams@senatedems.ct.gov; matthew.lesser@cga.ct.gov; Rosenberg, Julia <julia.rosenberg@yale.edu>; Asnes, Andrea <andrea.asnes@yale.edu>; Kiki Kennedy <kkennedymd@aol.com>; bob.clark@ct.gov; amanda.klay@ct.gov; sean.scanlon@cga.ct.gov; Zalneraitis, Edwin <Ezalner@connecticutchildrens.org>; Salazar, Juan <Jsalaza@connecticutchildrens.org>; Blodgett, Amy <ABlodgett@connecticutchildrens.org>; Kollar, Sarah <skollar@connecticutchildrens.org>; Khorasani, Abraham <AKhorasani@connecticutchildrens.org>; Garcia, Patricia <Pgarcia01@connecticutchildrens.org>; andrew.mais@ct.gov

Subject: RE: Urgent Request - Expand HUSKY Coverage to Undocumented Families

Dear Paul:

As a follow up to the email we sent on April 3, 2020, attached please find an updated and revised letter addressed to Governor Lamont requesting that the state expand the HUSKY insurance programs to include undocumented children, youth and their parents/guardians. Please note that this updated version of the correspondence is signed by 233 physicians and other front-line clinicians involved in caring and treating for vulnerable populations across the state. As the state anticipates the “surge” of COVID-19 patients to continue through the next few weeks, the need to implement this expansion is more acute and emergent than ever.

Once again, we thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please don't hesitate to contact Dr. Julia Rosenberg (Julia.rosenberg@yale.edu), Dr. Katherine Kennedy (kkennedymd@aol.com), Dr. Andrea Asnes (andrea.asnes@yale.edu), or me.

Sincerely,

Jay Sicklick

Jay E. Sicklick

Deputy Director / Director – Medical Legal Partnership

Center for Children's Advocacy

UCONN School of Law

65 Elizabeth St.

Hartford, CT 06105

860-570-5327 ext.257 (fax) 860-570-5256

cca-ct.org