



Legislative Testimony
765 Asylum Avenue, First Floor
Hartford, CT 06105
860-523-9146
www.acluct.org

**Written Testimony Supporting
House Bill 6093, An Act Concerning Consideration of
Immigration Status by Health Carriers**

Senator Lesser, Representative Scanlon, and distinguished members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee:

My name is David McGuire, and I am executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Connecticut (ACLU-CT). I am submitting this testimony in support of House Bill 6093, An Act Concerning Consideration of Immigration Status by Health Carriers.

The ACLU-CT believes in equality for all people, no matter how much money they have, where they are from, or where their parents are from. By providing all people, regardless of immigration status, with the same access to affordable health insurance, House Bill 6093 upholds each of these ideals.

Fair and equal access to health insurance and health care is an important resource for all Connecticut residents. However, undocumented immigrants in our state are generally not able to obtain health insurance because they are discriminated against based on their immigration status. Without health insurance, many undocumented families cannot afford health care, not unlike most citizens of our state. Someone's immigration status should not be the reason why they are denied health care, but health insurance carriers can freely discriminate against Connecticut residents because of their immigration status.

Undocumented immigrants help fund state health programs with the roughly \$145 million they pay in local and state taxes annually, and they should have the right to benefit from those programs they are financially supporting. Equalizing access to affordable health insurance would help undocumented immigrants, but it would also help our state as a whole save money in the long run by treating ailments before they become more expensive to treat.

The ACLU-CT encourages this committee to make Connecticut a fairer and more equal state where everyone can receive the health care they need by supporting House Bill 6093 to prohibit health carriers from denying health insurance policies to people based on their immigration status.