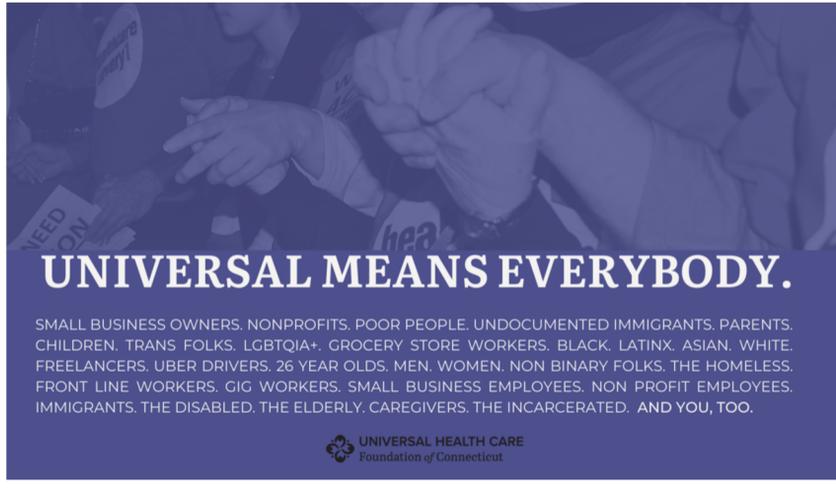




HEALTH CARE HEADLINES Special Edition: End of legislative session update



We are three weeks from the close of the 2021 legislative session, which ends at midnight on June 9.

Now is a crazy time in the process when good ideas die on the vine, compromises are negotiated, and final-hour deals are struck.

With legislative business is being conducted online or behind closed doors with no ability to lobby legislators face-to-face, it makes for a very unusual year.

Here's what you need to know and how you can help.

Key Advocacy Updates:

Public Options bill (SB 842) - This effort has been led by CT Campaign for Affordable Health Care, of which Universal Health Care is a part. The bill has 4 key parts to it:

- Establish a state-backed public option for small businesses, nonprofits and labor Taft-Hartley funds
- Extend HUSKY eligibility to 201% of the federal poverty level
- Create a health coverage option for undocumented immigrants
- Implement health insurance tax to help individuals afford coverage (such as copays and deductibles) on the health insurance exchange.

Despite fervent advocacy, the future of this bill is uncertain right now.

The threats and dark money advertising mounted by BIG Insurance are making headway. You can weigh in now:

[Click here to do more.](#)

HUSKY 4 Immigrants

This campaign is focused on getting health coverage for immigrants who are unable to buy coverage in the private market or access public programs, like Medicaid (HUSKY). There have been several proposals this session, including HUSKY for all undocumented immigrants and HUSKY for children.

The issue has gained traction, especially in the wake of the pandemic and with impactful advocacy.

Now is the time to speak up for immigrant coverage being included in the state budget.

[Click here to do more.](#)

HUSKY 4 More

The goal this year was to extend HUSKY eligibility to 201% of the federal poverty level.

Right now, the budget includes resources for extension to 175% of the federal poverty level for parents (HUSKY A).

The fight is to get to 201% and spare low-income parents from being uninsured or underinsured on the health insurance exchange.

Recovery for All (equitable revenue for investment in health care, housing, education, communities, etc.)

This campaign is focused on a tax package that will raise hundreds of millions of new, progressive revenue for investment in structural changes that put people and communities first. It will build a true recovery for all, rather than just the wealthy few.

The Finance Committee package bucked the Governor's timid approach to dealing with our regressive tax structure and pushes CT toward long-term changes that do not rely on one-time budget fixes and influx of federal funds, such as the American Rescue Plan funds. **This approach is being discussed in the current revenue and appropriations negotiations.**

[Click here to do more.](#)

Finally, a significant health equity bill, *Senate Bill 1*, passed in the Senate this week by a vote of 30-5.

This expansive bill includes:

- Declaring racism as a public health crisis
- Creation of a commission on racial equity and public health (which is funded and staffed)
- A commission on gun violence intervention and prevention
- Setting a goal to achieve a 70% reduction in various health disparities
- Collection of Race, Ethnicity and Language data.

The effort is led by our ally, Health Equity Solutions. **The bill must now be passed in the House.**

As always, [tell us what you'd like to hear more about](#) so you can see the latest on all the issues you care about.

Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut

290 Pratt Street

Meriden, CT 06450

203-639-0550

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