



**Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 1004: An Act Concerning Dental and Vision Insurance Coverage for Children, Stepchildren and Other Dependent Children**

**Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut  
March 9, 2021**

Thank you, chairs and members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 1004: An Act Concerning Dental and Vision Insurance Coverage for Children, Stepchildren and Other Dependent Children. Allowing children to remain on their parents' dental and vision insurance until age 26 is common-sense policy and we urge the committee to pass this bill.

At Universal Health Care Foundation, we envision a health system that is accountable and responsive to the people it serves, that supports our health, takes excellent care of all of us when we are sick, at a cost that does not threaten our financial security. We believe that health outcomes should not be affected based upon income, gender, race, language of preference, status, or geography

This proposal expanding young adults' dental and vision coverage supports our vision – both in its expansion of these critical benefits to more young adults, but also in its acknowledgement of the importance of dental and vision care as part of medical care.

Dental care is a critical component of overall health. We support the proposed bill because:

- More young adults will have access to critical dental coverage, especially low to middle income young people, who often go without dental insurance; and
- Access to oral health care reduces serious and expensive conditions, helps keep adults at work, and reduces health care costs for all of us.

Vision care is also critical to overall health. We support the proposed bill because:

- Like dental care, more young adults will have access to vision coverage; and
- Access to vision coverage is critical for educational and economic success – correcting a person's vision allows them to fully participate in school and work.

The proposed policy aligns with the current law for children retaining medical coverage on their parents' health insurance policy until age 26. We hope that this is the year that these proposals make it through – we have testified in support of these concepts several times. This is, again, common-sense policy that will help young adults remain healthy. Thank you.