

NEWS RELEASE
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**Health Advocates Call for Preserving HUSKY Coverage for Parents
Following Research Findings on Impact of Proposed Cuts**

*Thousands of Parents Estimated to Lose Coverage
Due to High Costs in Governor's Proposed Plan*

In response to a new research report estimating that Governor Malloy's proposed HUSKY health care cuts would result in thousands more uninsured parents and pregnant women, health advocacy groups called on the Governor and state legislators to maintain current HUSKY eligibility levels for families enrolled in the program.

The Governor has proposed eliminating HUSKY eligibility for many parents and pregnant women. Under the Governor's plan, coverage would be eliminated for parents with income between 138% and 201% of the federal poverty level, or about \$28,000 to \$40,000 for a family of three. HUSKY coverage would also be dropped for pregnant women with incomes between 138% and 263% of the poverty level, or about \$28,000 to \$52,000 for a family of three. These parents would be expected to purchase private health coverage through the health insurance Exchange established under federal health reform.

The report, prepared by researchers at the University of Massachusetts Medical School's Center for Health Law and Economics on behalf of the Connecticut Health Foundation, estimated that 7,000 to 10,000 currently-insured parents in HUSKY would go without health coverage as a result of unaffordable premiums and co-payments that would be required of these low-income parents in the Exchange. The report also indicates that low-income children are more likely to be uninsured if their parents lose coverage.

Connecticut Voices for Children and the Legal Assistance Resource Center call upon Governor Malloy and state legislators to maintain the current eligibility rules for parents and pregnant women.

"Connecticut has made strong progress in expanding access to health coverage for families," said Sharon Langer, Advocacy Director at Connecticut Voices for Children. "The Governor's proposal for

parents and pregnant women would undo this progress, making thousands of them and their children uninsured."

"Connecticut has enthusiastically embraced the new coverage options available under the Affordable Care Act and has seen an increase in health care coverage among low-income residents. This proposal would represent a step backward," said Jane McNichol, Executive Director of the Legal Assistance Resource Center of Connecticut.

The report, "How Proposed HUSKY Cuts Will Harm Low-Income Families," is available on the Connecticut Health Foundation website at www.cthealth.org.

Connecticut Voices for Children is a research and advocacy organization that works to improve opportunities for the state's children, youth and families (www.ctvoices.org). The Legal Assistance Resource Center of Connecticut (LARCC) is the policy advocacy and public education branch of the Legal Services network in the state and advocates for policies which benefit low-income people (www.larcc.org).

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