

Human Services Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-807

AN ACT CONCERNING THE ELIMINATION OF ASSET LIMITS FOR HUSKY C

Title: BENEFICIARIES OVER A FIVE-YEAR PERIOD.

Vote Date: 3/14/2025

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/11/2025

File No.: 423

Disclaimer: *The following JOINT FAVORABLE Report is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose.*

SPONSORS OF BILL:

Human Services Committee

CO-SPONSORS OF BILL:

Sen. Martin M. Looney, 11th Dist., Sen. Herron Gaston, 23rd Dist.

REASONS FOR BILL:

SB 807 would essentially phase out the asset limits for HUSKY C over five years, while expanding Medicaid eligibility for elderly and disabled residents. This bill would increase the asset limit from \$1,600 for an individual to \$10,000 for an individual.

This bill was introduced to tackle the current issue with HUSKY C that leaves many disable and elderly recipients with no choice but to leave their communities and join homes because they are not able to go above the asset limit. This would allow recipients to work and continue to be members of their community.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

[Department of Social Services \(DSS\), Commissioner, Andrea Reeves Barton:](#) opposes the bill and supports improving healthcare access, the projected state costs—rising from \$20.5 million in 2026 to at least \$60 million in 2027, excluding administrative expenses—are deemed unsustainable and not accounted for in the Governor's budget. Due to these significant financial concerns, the Department opposes the bill.

[Connecticut Office of the Healthcare Advocate, Kathleen Holt:](#) says that asset limits create unnecessary barriers to medical benefits for aging and disabled individuals, forcing them to spend down their savings just to qualify for HUSKY C, unlike beneficiaries of other Medicaid

programs in Connecticut. They also contend that eliminating asset limits would reduce administrative costs, encourage financial stability, and allow individuals to better withstand economic hardship while maintaining their dignity and quality of life.

[The Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity & Opportunity \(CWCSEO\), Lead Aging Policy Analyst, Michael Werner:](#) supports this bill and adds that it would generate further equity in Medicaid programs.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

[Connecticut General Assembly, Senate President Pro Tem, Martin Looney:](#) Supports this bill and reminds that Husky D does not have an asset limit. They urge that there should be no asset limit that excludes eligible residents.

[AgingCT, Southwestern CT Agency on Aging, President, Marie Allen:](#) supports this bill and its effort to increase the asset limit which they say will help residents to fund financial emergencies. They add that this bill promotes financial security and savings for Medicaid expenditures.

[Connecticut Legal Services, Attorney, Jean Mills Aranha:](#) support this bill and remind that the limit has not increased since 1973 and many seniors can't afford to meet a number of expenses and that this limit is unrealistic. And many times elders have to give up their homes and move into nursing homes. They support the bills effort to raise asset limits of HUSKY C in increments over 5 years.

[NAMI Connecticut Inc, Public Policy Manager, Thomas Burr:](#) supports this bill in its effort to raise the low asset limits for HUSKY C. they remind that it hasn't been adjusted since the 1970s and as private healthcare premiums become more expensive folks with limited income are increasingly priced out.

[Spinal Cord Injury Association CT \(SCIACT\), President, Jeffrey, Dion:](#) supports this bill and advocates for eliminating income and asset limits for individuals with disabilities on Medicaid. He argues that it is discriminatory for disabled individuals who work and pay taxes to face financial penalties, while able-bodied individuals can earn and save without restrictions. He emphasizes that aligning state and federal guidelines would ensure fairness, allowing people with disabilities to work, contribute to society, and retain necessary benefits without unjust limitations.

[Connecticut Legal Rights Project, Executive Director, Kathy Flaherty:](#) supports this bill, specifically, the section which would phase out the outdated asset limits for HUSKY C over five years. She urges the committee to also address the program's discriminatory income limits.

[Citizens Coalition for Equal Access, Ruth Grobe:](#) supports this bill but states that it doesn't raise it quickly enough and that HUSKY C is currently set up to discourage people with disabilities to work that would benefit themselves and the community.

[Renee Robles:](#) supports this bill and urges passage of it, they say it will empower our elderly and other populations plan for their future and meet their needs beyond healthcare coverage.

[Home Matters Caregiving, Owner, Matt Scher](#): supports this bill and updating the outdated restrictive asset limits. Raising the limits would empower our residents.

[AARP Connecticut, Associate State Director Advocacy, Natalie Shurtleff](#): supports this bill and add that the low asset limit creates a barrier for many folk covered under HUSKY C. they urge following California's lead and ending discrimination against the disabled and elderly by removing the asset limit.

[Center for Disability Rights, Advocate, Richard Famiglietti](#): Supports this bill as a beginning step but urges to not wait five years and fix it now. As the current limit does not allow for any extra savings

[CitizensCoalition4EqualAccess, Suzanne Garraffa](#): Supports this bill as a eligible resident for HUSKY C and states that the income limits are too low and prevents folks from taking work that helps themselves and their community.

[Fairfield Senior Advocates, Director, William Lenahan](#): supports this bill and adds that this would keep elderly folks within their community and create positive results for seniors and the state's finances and urges approval of the bill.

[LeadingAge Connecticut, President, Mag Morelli](#): supports this bill and raising the current limit of 1,600 which often times leads elderly in nursing homes instead of community care. They don't believe this was the intent, but this bill would help alleviate the issue.

[Caregiving Matters Home, Owner, Asha Scher](#): supports this bill and says the current HUSKY C Medicaid program is outdated and restrictive. They advocate for raising the limit.

[The Arc Connecticut, Director of Advocacy, Carol Scully](#): supports this bill and the effort to eliminate the asset limit in the HUSKY C program. They argue that raising these limits would align Connecticut with other states, improve financial stability, and ensure better healthcare access for disabled individuals who rely on Medicaid for services not covered by Medicare.

[She Leads Justice, Policy Director, Tonishia Signore](#): supports this bill and the effort to lift recipients out of poverty. They also ask to review income eligibility limits.

[Disability Rights CT, Litigation Attorney, Sheldon Toubman](#): supports this bill and add that the current Medicaid eligibility rules in Connecticut unfairly discriminate against people with disabilities and older adults by imposing stricter income and asset limits than those applied to other adults.

[Kathryn Strout](#): supports this bill and asks why HUSKY A, B, and D have no asset limits but HUSCKY C recipients do? While they are primarily elderly and the disabled. They say it is discriminatory and they raising the limit is a good first step.

[Saraiya Davis](#): supports this bill and reminds that HUSKY C is by far the most restrictive with eligibility rules and that the current limit makes it dangerous for many recipients to have at home care.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

[Janice Jackson](#): opposes this bill.

Reported by: Christian Talarski

Date: 4/3/2025