

# Human Services Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No:** SB-326 / [Bill Status](#) / [Public Hearing Testimony](#)

**Title:** AN ACT CONCERNING HUSKY C ASSET LIMITS.

**Vote Date:** 3/19/2026

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable Substitute

**PH Date:** 3/3/2026

**File No.:**

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## **SPONSORS OF BILL:**

Human Services Committee

## **REASONS FOR BILL:**

This bill seeks to phase out asset limits in the HUSKY C program, which provides Medicaid coverage to individuals who are elderly or have disabilities. The underlying purpose is to remove financial barriers that can prevent otherwise eligible individuals from accessing or maintaining healthcare coverage. By eliminating asset limits over time, the bill aims to ensure that older adults and people with disabilities are not forced to deplete savings or remain in poverty in order to qualify for essential medical assistance, promoting greater financial stability and access to care.

## **SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE (IF APPLICABLE):**

Substitute language (LCO 3457) was used in SB 326 to modify the original proposal phasing out HUSKY C asset limits so it is more fiscally and administratively workable. Rather than implementing a broad or immediate elimination, the substitute language refines the timeline, structure, or scope of the phase-out to better align with state budget considerations and program administration.

## **RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:**

**Department of Social Services, Andrea Barton Reeves, Commissioner:** states the bill would expand the definition of “emergency medical condition” and require the Department of Social Services to broaden emergency Medicaid coverage. She raised concerns about the

proposal's potential fiscal and administrative impacts, signaling caution about implementation and the scope of expanded eligibility.

**Council on Developmental Services, Christine Hainsworth-Straus, Chairperson:** states that existing HUSKY C asset limits create unnecessary financial barriers for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, forcing them to remain in poverty to qualify for care. They highlighted that eliminating or increasing these limits would promote greater financial stability and independence while ensuring individuals can access essential healthcare and support services.

**Connecticut General Assembly, Martin M. Looney, Senate President Pro Tempore:** strongly supports the changes as existing HUSKY C asset limits force low-income seniors and individuals with disabilities to remain in poverty to qualify for healthcare coverage. He argues the bill would promote fairness and economic security by allowing individuals to retain modest savings while maintaining access to essential medical care.

**Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity & Opportunity, Michael Werner, Policy Analyst:** emphasizes the needed reforms to better support older adults and individuals with disabilities in accessing healthcare. He highlights that removing restrictive asset limits would promote economic stability and improve access to essential services for vulnerable populations.

#### **NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

**Southwestern Connecticut Agency on Aging & Independent Living, Marie Allen, Director:** states that current Medicaid asset limits force older adults and individuals with disabilities to "spend down" their savings to qualify for care, undermining their financial stability. She highlighted that eliminating these limits would help individuals maintain modest savings while still accessing necessary healthcare, promoting independence and economic security.

**Connecticut Legal Services, Inc, Jean Mills Aranha, Elder Law Attorney:** drawing on her experience in elder law and long-term care policy; supports the improved protections and access to benefits for vulnerable populations, particularly older adults who rely on programs like HUSKY C and Medicaid.

**CT Citizen Action Group, Liz Dupont-Diehl, Associate Director:** emphasized that current HUSKY C asset limits are overly restrictive and prevent low-income seniors and individuals with disabilities from accessing needed healthcare. She argues the bill would modernize eligibility standards and help ensure vulnerable residents can receive and maintain essential medical coverage.

**Center for Disability Rights, Richard Famiglietti, Advocate:** emphasized that current HUSKY C asset limits unfairly force individuals with disabilities to remain in poverty to qualify for coverage. He argues the bill would promote financial stability and independence while ensuring continued access to essential healthcare services.

**Connecticut Legal Rights Project, Kathy Flaherty, Executive Director:** emphasized that current asset limits for HUSKY C force individuals with disabilities to remain in deep poverty to maintain eligibility. She argues the bill would promote fairness and independence by allowing individuals to retain modest savings while still accessing necessary healthcare coverage.

**Office of the Healthcare Advocate, Kathleen Holt, Healthcare Advocate for the State of Connecticut:** emphasized that current HUSKY C asset limits create unnecessary barriers to coverage for older adults and individuals with disabilities. She argues the bill would improve access to care and promote financial stability by allowing individuals to retain modest assets without losing eligibility.

**She Leads Justice, Kylie Kelsey, Intern:** emphasized that strict HUSKY C asset limits disproportionately harm low-income women and marginalized communities by forcing them to remain in poverty to maintain healthcare coverage. She argues the bill would advance economic equity and stability by allowing individuals to retain modest assets while still accessing essential care.

**The Arc Connecticut, Danielle M. Middlebrooks, Director of Advocacy & Public Policy:** emphasized that current HUSKY C asset limits create unnecessary barriers for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities seeking to maintain financial stability. She argues the bill would promote greater independence and equity by allowing individuals to retain modest savings while still qualifying for essential healthcare coverage.

**Connecticut Legal Services Kristen Noelle Miller, Managing Attorney of the Public Benefits Unit:** emphasized that current HUSKY C asset limits force low-income seniors and individuals with disabilities to remain in poverty to qualify for essential healthcare coverage. She argues the bill would remove these barriers, promoting financial stability and improved access to care.

**Greater Hartford Legal Aid, Caleb Rifkin, Policy Advocate:** emphasized that current HUSKY C asset limits create significant barriers for low-income older adults and individuals with disabilities seeking to access and maintain healthcare coverage. He argues the bill would promote economic stability and fairness by allowing individuals to retain modest assets without losing eligibility for essential benefits.

**AARP Connecticut, Natalie Shurtleff, Associate State Director, Advocacy and Community Outreach:** emphasized that current HUSKY C asset limits place unnecessary financial strain on older adults by requiring them to remain in poverty to qualify for coverage. She argues the bill would help seniors maintain modest savings while preserving access to essential healthcare, promoting greater financial security and dignity.

**She Leads Justice, Tonishia Signore, MSW, Policy Director:** emphasized that strict HUSKY C asset limits disproportionately impact low-income women and families by forcing them to remain in poverty to access care. She argues the bill would advance economic justice and equity by allowing individuals to build modest financial security while maintaining healthcare coverage.

**Disability Rights Connecticut, Sheldon Toubman, Litigation Attorney:** emphasized that strict HUSKY C asset limits force individuals with disabilities to remain in deep poverty to access essential healthcare. He argues the bill would remove these barriers, promoting greater financial independence, dignity, and equitable access to medical coverage.

The following individuals testified in support of the bill:

**Darlene Borré**

**Suzanne Garraffa**

**Scott Masson and Lauren Traceski**

**Sandra Roberts**

#### **NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

None Expressed.

#### **NATURE AND SOURCES OF GENERAL COMMENTS:**

**Christopher Blake:** submitted testimony raising concerns and seeking clarification about how assets would be defined under SB 326, specifically questioning whether items like burial plans, plots, and headstones would continue to count as assets. His testimony highlights potential impacts on eligibility determinations and the need for clearer guidance in the bill.

**Reported by: Mackenzie Frenette**

**Date: April 2, 2026**