

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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IPHCA Reaffirms Commitment to Health Care for All Illinoisans as Public Charge Takes Effect

SPRINGFIELD – Today, the federal public charge rule goes into effect nationwide, including Illinois. On Friday, the Supreme Court ruled in the *Wolf v. Cook County* case, overturning Illinois’ injunction on the rule. Previously, the district court filed a preliminary injunction, which temporarily halted the policy in Illinois and sent the case to the Supreme Court.

Community health centers across the state and the country have already begun to see the chilling effect of this regulation, which discourages legal immigrants in the process of obtaining permanent legal status or citizenship from using public assistance, including Medicaid, housing vouchers, and nutrition benefits. Instances have been reported of individuals opting out of programs for which they themselves or their family members are eligible in an effort to avoid jeopardizing their future prospects.

As a result of the public charge policy change, many patients, their families, and our communities more broadly are experiencing confusion, anxiety, and fear. We want to remind everyone that community health centers are safe, trusted places for all Illinoisans to access the care they need.

Safe, healthy individuals and families are the cornerstone of thriving communities. Forgoing medical care can be harmful, not only to the well-being of individuals, but that of entire communities. In these challenging times, IPHCA and our members remain committed to ensuring that high-quality, comprehensive care is accessible and affordable to anyone who enters the door of a community health center.

Jordan Powell
President + CEO

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MEDIA CONTACT:

Cyrus Winnett, Senior Vice President of Public Policy + Governmental Affairs, cwinnett@iphca.org, (217) 541-7374

Established in 1982, the Illinois Primary Health Care Association (IPHCA) is a nonprofit trade association of community health centers that proudly serves as Illinois’ sole primary care association. IPHCA represents 51 members that operate nearly 390 sites serving 1.4 million patients annually. IPHCA positions its members to be the providers of choice within the communities they serve through advocacy, education, and technical assistance emphasizing the high quality, accessible and integrated health center model of care.

