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## **IPHCA Condemns Attacks on Asian American and Pacific Islander Community; Reaffirms Commitment to Racial Equity**

**SPRINGFIELD, Ill., March 30, 2021** –The work of community health centers has always been closely tied to the movement for racial equity. Drawing back to the Civil Rights era, the precursors to today’s community health centers were established to address health disparities in underserved communities. In fact, some of the very first health centers in Illinois were created to provide access to health care for public housing residents. Additionally, Chicago’s very own Congressman Danny Davis not only helped to found and operate some of the earliest community health centers but he is also credited with helping to establish the National Association of Community Health Centers to ensure a collective voice for CHCs and those they serve.

Owing our origins to the fight for equality, we are deeply saddened by recent acts of violence and hate speech directed at Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) in communities across the nation. These attacks are inexcusable and must be called out so that it is clear that we as a society reject racial discrimination, xenophobia, and white supremacy.

IPHCA and our member health centers stand with the AAPI community. We are committed to building strong, healthy communities that are safe and welcoming to all people. Proudly caring for immigrants, refugees, migrant workers, and other marginalized populations has long been central to our mission. As Vice President Kamala Harris once said, “Our unity is our strength; and our diversity is our power. We reject the myth of ‘us’ vs. ‘them.’ We are in this together.” We look forward to uplifting and honoring the AAPI community this May during national Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

**About Illinois Primary Health Care Association (IPHCA)** – IPHCA is a non-profit trade association that represents community health centers throughout the state. Illinois’ 52 community health centers provide comprehensive, integrated primary care including medical, behavioral, and oral health care to nearly 1.5 million patients annually across nearly 400 service sites in underserved rural, urban, and suburban communities.

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