

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Media Contact:**

Beth Fox  
Director, Communications  
[bfox@iphca.org](mailto:bfox@iphca.org)  
(217) 541-7313

Amber Kirchhoff  
Director, Public Policy + Government Affairs  
[akirchhoff@iphca.org](mailto:akirchhoff@iphca.org)  
(217) 541-7300

## **IPHCA Applauds Recent Developments to Overturn Public Charge Rule**

SPRINGFIELD – Yesterday, the Supreme Court agreed to a Biden Administration request to dismiss an upcoming case challenging the previous administration’s Public Charge Rule. The regulation tightens restrictions on some immigrants seeking to adjust their status who have participated in certain public programs to help meet their basic needs. The Biden Administration began taking steps to reverse the Public Charge policy almost immediately upon taking office by issuing an [Executive Order](#) calling for a review of the regulation on February 2 of this year. In its request, the Biden Administration indicated that they had reached an agreement with the parties who brought the suit – yet another signal that the Administration intends to revoke the policy administratively.

The rule has created widespread confusion, fear, and mistrust in many immigrant communities. These [concerns have led to thousands going without](#) health care; forgoing nutrition, housing, and other assistance; and even withdrawing their eligible children and other family members from Medicaid and other benefits programs.

This is particularly dangerous during a global public health emergency that has been devastating to communities of color and low-income communities. While it is important to note that the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services [announced](#) that immigrants can seek COVID-19 testing, treatment, and prevention services without risking consequences due to the Public Charge Test, this does not unwind the damage the policy has done. In spite of this announcement, the Public Charge Rule already has had serious and significant negative effects, eroding immigrant communities’ willingness to seek needed health care, social services, and economic supports – putting them at even greater risk of COVID-19 and further threatening their stability and well-being.

“The Public Charge Rule is dangerous to the patients and communities that our member Community Health Centers serve. We applaud this development and the anticipated repeal of this regulation; and look forward to continuing to work to strengthen access to the care that keeps people safe, healthy, and able to live well,” says Amber Kirchhoff, Director of Public Policy and Government Affairs at the Illinois Primary Health Care Association.

Community Health Centers are proud to provide high-quality, comprehensive care to patients regardless of insurance coverage, ability to pay, or immigration status. We strongly believe that health care is a basic right and must be accessible to all. The Public Charge Rule runs counter to this core tenet and we are glad to see it come to an end.

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The Illinois Primary Health Care Association is a nonprofit 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.