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Senator Duckworth Champions Prescription Drug Affordability

IPHCA, Chicago Health Centers Join Senator Duckworth to Elevate the Importance of the 340B Program and Access to Affordable Medication and Care for Illinois' Underserved

CHICAGO, Ill. – Today, the Illinois Primary Health Care Association was pleased to join Senator Tammy Duckworth, AARP, UI Health, Mile Square Health Center, and Howard Brown Health for a roundtable discussion on the passage of the Inflation Reduction Act. The conversation focused on how policymakers can work with providers, advocates, and patients to ensure medication is affordable and accessible to Illinoisans.

IPHCA and our member Community Health Centers remain committed to providing high-quality, barrier-free primary care – including medication – to all Illinoisans regardless of income or insurance status. This has become increasingly difficult as a result of recent threats to the federal 340B prescription drug discount program. The 340B program is foundational to keeping medication within reach for common chronic conditions such as diabetes, asthma, and high blood pressure.

“Every time I hear from an Illinoisan who is facing the unbearable decision of either paying for their lifesaving prescription drugs or paying for rent, the same frustrating question comes to mind: How are we still allowing Big Pharma to have such a stranglehold on our country?” said U.S. Senator Tammy Duckworth (D-IL). “So, it is important seniors and Black and Brown Chicagoans know that Senate Democrats passed historic changes that will lower prescription drug costs for millions across the country. I am particularly proud that we are taking on Big Pharma by empowering Medicare to negotiate directly for the price of prescription drugs—lowering and capping costs for seniors across our state and helping make sure that those who need lifesaving drugs are able to afford them.”

We look forward to working with Senator Duckworth, her colleagues in Congress, and the U.S. Healthcare and Resources Administration to protect the 340B program and patient access to affordable medication, so that they can stay healthy and live well.

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About Illinois Primary Health Care Association (IPHCA) – IPHCA is a non-profit trade association that represents community health centers throughout the state. Illinois’ 53 community health centers provide comprehensive, integrated primary care including medical, behavioral, and oral health care to roughly 1.5 million patients annually across more than 400 service sites in underserved rural, urban, and suburban communities.