

Media Contact:

Beth Fox

Director of Communications

bfox@iphca.org**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****IPHCA Honors Community Health Center Champion Congressman Bobby Rush**

CHICAGO, Ill., October 12, 2022 – Today, the Illinois Primary Health Care Association (IPHCA) honored U.S. Representative Bobby L. Rush (D-Ill.) for his lifetime of public service and leadership on behalf of community health centers and the underserved.

Ollie Idowu, IPHCA President and Chief Executive Officer, presented the 2022 Distinguished Community Health Center Advocate Award to Representative Rush at Beloved Community Family Health Center's location on the south side of Chicago. The award ceremony was attended by community health center leaders from across the Congressman's district who joined to honor his robust contributions to the community health center movement over his nearly three decades serving in the United States House of Representatives.

IPHCA and its member health centers are thankful for the Congressman's steadfast commitment to ensuring healthcare access and equity, including protections for the 340B prescription drug discount program and assistance to providers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Illinois is fortunate to have had such a strong advocate for health equity representing us all these years. We are forever grateful for all that Congressman Rush has done during his time in office. He embodies the spirit of a true servant leader; and while his time in office may be coming to a close, his impact and legacy will surely endure for many years to come," said Mr. Idowu.

"As an activist, an Alderman, and a Member of Congress, I have always sought to advance the cause of underserved and vulnerable communities, knowing that expanding access to quality health care was central to improving people's lives. More needs to be done make sure that Black & Brown patients have access to health services and feel heard by their medical providers, which is why I have fought to keep clinics open in my district," said Rep. Rush. "Although I am retiring from Congress this year, I am not retiring from public service. I look forward to continuing my work with community health centers to continue to find innovative ways to accomplish these goals."

The award was presented by IPHCA on behalf of their national affiliate, the National Association for Community Health Centers (NACHC).

The Illinois Primary Health Care Association is a nonprofit trade association that serves as the voice of and champion for all 53 Illinois community health centers which serve over 1.5 million patients annually across more than 400 service sites in underserved areas across our state's rural, urban, and suburban communities.

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