

## *Illinois Alliance for Welcoming Health Care*

Recent federal executive orders and policy changes have ramped up immigration enforcement and the threat of deportation and family separation.<sup>1</sup> These harsh policy changes have already inflicted significant damage on our communities' well-being.

- A recent study in California, found “worry about deportation was significantly associated with cardiovascular risk factors, including body mass index (BMI), waist circumference, and continuous measures of systolic and pulse pressure.”<sup>2</sup>
- Other studies have also found that children who have had a parent detained or deported experience an increased occurrence of social isolation, depression, and anxiety.<sup>3</sup> Illinois is home to 249,000 children who have at least one undocumented parent, representing 8% of our total child population (2,969,000).
- Further studies have shown that those who worry about being deported or having a relative or friend be deported have a higher likelihood of reporting the need to seek mental or emotional help.<sup>4</sup>

These studies and the growing anxiety and fear in our community led the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR) to create the Illinois Alliance for Welcoming Healthcare. The Alliance's goal is to create a welcoming environment for everyone in every healthcare institution in Illinois.

### The Alliance Supports:

- Serving all individuals regardless of race, age, language, disability, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, immigration status, religion or ethnicity;
- Ensuring that immigrants receive equitable access and quality services;
- Supporting communities in creating a welcoming climate for immigrants;
- Creating a continuum of services that addresses patients' health needs.

### The Alliance Commits to:

- Providing quality health care regardless of a person's race, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, immigration status, religion or ethnicity;
- Educating relevant staff on the rights of patients (consumers) and resources regardless of immigration status;
- Establishing relationships with immigrant serving community organizations in our communities;
- Not asking for or sharing patients' information that can endanger their safety or immigration status;
- Creating a physically welcoming environment for all.

<sup>1</sup> “Immigration under Trump: A Review of Policy Shifts in the Year Since the Election.” Sarah Pierce and Andrew Selee, Migration Policy Institute, (December 2017).

<sup>2</sup> “Worry About Deportation and Cardiovascular Disease Risk Factors Among Adult Women: The Center for the Health Assessment of Mothers and Children of Salinas Study.” Jacqueline M. Torres, et al., *Annals of Behavioral Medicine*, Volume 52, Issue 2, 5 February 2018, Pages 186–193

<sup>3</sup> “Facing Our Future: Children in the Aftermath of Immigration Enforcement,” A. Chaudry, et al., The Urban Institute, (February 2010).

<sup>4</sup> “Fear by Association: Perceptions of Anti-Immigrant Policy and Health Outcomes.” Vargas, ED., et al., *Journal of Health Politics*, (June 2017).

For more information about the Alliance or if you would like to get involved, contact Luvia Quiñones at [lquinones@icirr.org](mailto:lquinones@icirr.org) or 312-332-7360 x221  
[www.ilalliancehealth.org](http://www.ilalliancehealth.org)

## Supporters

### **Health Providers**

AMITA Health  
Arden Shore Child and Family Services  
Asian Health Services Family Health Center  
(AHSFHC)  
Chicago Department of Public Health  
CommunityHealth  
Community Youth Network  
Cook County Health (CCH)  
Erie Family Health Center  
Esperanza Health Centers  
Hamdard Healthcare  
Heartland Health Centers  
Illinois Chapter, American Academy of  
Pediatrics  
(ICAAP)  
Illinois Primary Health Care Association  
Lake County Health Department  
Loyola University Medical Center  
Medical Organization for Latino Advancement  
National Organization of Nurses with  
Disabilities  
(NOND)  
PCC Community Wellness Center  
PrimeCare Community Health  
Rush University Medical Center  
Sinai Health System  
St. Anthony Hospital  
The Night Ministry

### **Organizations**

Access Living  
Age Options  
Aids Foundation Chicago  
ACLU-IL  
DuPage Federation on Human Services  
Reform  
DuPage Health Coalition  
Enlace Chicago  
EverThrive Illinois  
Greater Chicago Food Depository  
Health Justice Project, Beazley Institute for  
Health Law and Policy Loyola University  
Chicago School of Law  
Heartland Alliance for Human Needs &  
Human Rights  
Illinois Association of Free and Charitable  
Clinics  
Illinois Public Health Institute  
Illinois Public Health Association  
Language Access Resource Center (LARC)  
Legal Council for Health Justice  
Mano a Mano Family Resource Center  
Mujeres Latinas en Acción  
Salud Sin Papeles  
Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty  
Law

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