

Statement: Unjustified – LA Clinics applaud Supreme Court decision on Census

Posted: June 27, 2019

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LOS ANGELES – June 27, 2019 – Today the Supreme Court rejected the Administration’s reasoning for including a citizenship question on the 2020 census, leaving in doubt whether the question will ultimately be included in the census.

The Community Clinic Association of Los Angeles County (CCALAC) is heartened by the decision of the Court, and hopeful that the Census will proceed without the citizenship question. The inclusion of the question would have deterred people – including underserved, low-income patients – from responding to and being counted in the census. The inclusion of the citizenship question would have undermined the reliability of census data because people in marginalized communities will be undercounted as they have been in past census counts.

“We stand with our patients and communities, as well as our community partners, in ensuring that all people are fairly counted for the 2020 census,” said Louise McCarthy, President and CEO of CCALAC.

“The census is a crucial source of data that determines distribution of resources and representation for our communities; therefore it is imperative that all community members are counted.”

CCALAC is working on several initiatives to promote participation in the census and will continue to work with partners and clinics to reach our community population of 1.7 million patients.

The Supreme Court found that the Administration did not provide a sufficient explanation for adding the question, leaving it unclear whether the Administration will provide what the Court deems an adequate answer in time for it to be included in the questionnaire. In addition to the Supreme Court’s consideration of the Census question, lower courts in New York and Maryland are also considering rulings on the citizenship question.

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Community Clinic Association of Los Angeles County

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Statement: Clinics support Governor's health care expansions, remain concerned by pharmacy proposal

Posted: May 9, 2019

3:54 PM | ELAIZA TORRALBA | LEAVE A COMMENT

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LOS ANGELES – May 9, 2019 – We are encouraged to see the Governor's May Revision maintains his commitment to expand Medi-Cal coverage for young adults, invest in California's healthcare workforce, fight homelessness and support families. Expanding Medi-Cal to cover all eligible young adults, regardless of immigration status, is an important step toward the promise of universal coverage, and we look forward to working with the Governor as we move toward the goal of ensuring coverage for ALL Californians. At the same time, we are concerned the budget maintains a change for pharmacy services in the Medi-Cal program which, if enacted, would greatly harm community health centers. While we support the Governor's goal of lowering the cost of drugs for Californians, the budget calls for transitioning pharmacy services from managed care to fee-for-service by 2021. This would eliminate savings from the 340B Drug Discount Program and result in the loss of hundreds of millions annually to California's safety net health care providers. Community clinics and health centers rely on these savings to provide critical services to our most vulnerable communities. We urge the Administration to explore alternative strategies to reduce drug pricing and protect safety net providers.

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Statement: LA Clinics Oppose Administration's 'Conscience Rule' Which Will Undermine Access to Care

Posted: May 2, 2019

3:55 PM | ELAIZA TORRALBA | LEAVE A COMMENT

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LOS ANGELES – May 2, 2019 – Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released the final so-called “conscience rule” which the administration claims will protect healthcare providers’ right to refrain from participating in health care services, including reproductive health and other basic services, that violate the person’s or entity’s conscience or religious views.

“This rule undermines critical health care protections, invites discrimination, and will hinder access to vital health care services, especially for women and the LGBT community,” said Louise McCarthy, President and CEO of the Community Clinic Association of Los Angeles County (CCALAC).

“Clinics will continue to provide a wide array of services to diverse communities, including members of the LGBT community and women, and will continue to be safe spaces for all patients seeking care. CCALAC will continue to work closely with our members and partners to further our mission to provide quality, comprehensive care to all individuals, and advance the health and safety of our communities.”

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Opposing Harmful “Public Charge” Rule, Medical and Community Groups Stand In Solidarity With Immigrant Families

Posted: October 10, 2018

7:30 AM | ELAIZA TORRALBA | LEAVE A COMMENT

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Press Statement

For Immediate Release

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Carolina Gamero, cgamero@caimmigrant.org, (213) 250-0880 ext. 107

October 10, 2018 – The Trump administration announced a proposed rule change that would undermine the safety and well-being of immigrant families. Through a draft proposal on “public charge,” the administration seeks to punish immigrant families for accessing nutrition, health care, and other vital programs for which they are fully eligible. In response to this harmful proposal, a number of members from the Community Clinic Association of Los Angeles County as well as immigrant advocate and community-based organizations have issued the following statements with deep concern and a commitment to resist any attacks to immigrant communities:

“Trump’s proposed policy is another cruel attack to struggling families across the country, including immigrants. As home to the largest population of immigrants- both documented and undocumented- California’s future lies in ensuring that families are set up to succeed. The administration’s anti-immigrant agenda targets families, forcing them to make the impossible choice of disenrolling from vital programs that serve as a lifeline, or risk being separated from their loved ones.”

– Cynthia Buiza, Executive Director, California Immigrant Policy Center (CIPC)

“Clinics are a safe space for patients to seek help for a wide array of services. This rule would deter patients from accessing critical programs they are entitled to, and have a chilling effect on our efforts to improve the health, well-being and economic security of our communities. This rule would undermine the critical strides California has achieved in improving comprehensive, culturally competent and innovative care.”

– Louise McCarthy, President & CEO, Community Clinic Association of LA County (CCALAC)

Other organizations in support added the following:

“As a Federally Qualified Health Center that provides high quality accessible healthcare services to patients dealing with significant trauma and the stressors that come from living in fear and in the shadows as a refugee and undocumented individual, Clínica Romero knows that federal immigration

policies often disrupt the delicate fabric of these vulnerable communities; affecting the wellbeing of immigrant families and placing their health at risk. The White House's most recent policy, *Public Charge*, is one of many recent affronts to immigrant families, which we will continue to decry as a human rights abuse.

Archbishop Romero once said: 'We plant the seeds that one day will grow. We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise.' At Clínica Romero, we believe that together with our partners we are planting seeds of trust and safety for immigrant families that will hold the promise of a better future for all of us."

– Carlos H. Vaquerano, Interim Executive Director, Clínica Monseñor Oscar A. Romero

"In response to the public charge proposal, Kheir Clinic is seeing more missed appointments, requests to disenroll from programs, and widespread fear and mistrust of the government. Those who are eligible for programs such as Medi-Cal, CHIP and SNAP are hesitant to enroll, due to misunderstanding and lack of in-language information on this issue. Many believe it has already been decided that enrollment in these programs will jeopardize their family's future chances of residency. Kheir has been communicating with the local Korean media outlets to provide accurate information about proposed rule change, but some families continue to avoid critical services that they are eligible for."

– Erin Pak, CEO of Kheir Clinic

"QueensCare Health Centers has a well established precedent of caring for ALL those in need, regardless of race, religion or immigration status. Regardless of the changes to the Public Charge Rule, we will remain steadfast in carrying out our mission of providing health care to the community."

– Barbara Hines, President & CEO, QueensCare Health Centers

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Background: The California Immigrant Policy Center and Community Clinic Association of Los Angeles County are actively working to advocate to protect immigrant communities who are facing these attacks, as well as express opposition through the 60-day comment period open for public comment. For more information and to learn how to take action, visit: www.protectingimmigrantfamilies.org.

Resources:

- www.cdss.ca.gov/Immigration-Services (directory of service providers of immigration assistance)
- ccalac.org/resources/categories/immigration/
- www.protectingimmigrantfamilies.org
- bit.ly/californiapif

About Community Clinic Association of Los Angeles County:

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Founded in 1994, CCALAC has 65 members that operate over 350 clinic sites throughout LA County.

CCALAC is dedicated to serving and representing the interests of its member clinics as providers of quality health care, including medical, dental and pharmacy services.

About the California Immigrant Policy Center:

CIPC advances inclusive policies that build a prosperous future for all Californians, using policy analysis, advocacy and capacity building. It is the premiere immigrant rights institution in the state that promotes and protects safety, health and public benefits and integration programs for immigrants.

Statement: LA Clinics Denounce Public Charge Rule Threatening Immigrants' Access to Care

Posted: September 24, 2018

9:00 AM | ELAIZA TORRALBA | LEAVE A COMMENT

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LOS ANGELES – September 24, 2018 – Over the weekend, the Trump administration released a proposal to restrict the ability for lawfully present immigrants to obtain permanent residency if they've accessed public assistance programs. The proposed rule would expand the current definition of "public charge" to include nutrition, health care, and other vital services for which they are eligible.

"Clinics are a safe space for patients to seek help for a wide array of services. This rule would deter patients from accessing critical programs they are entitled to and have a chilling effect on our efforts to improve the health, well-being and economic security of our communities," said Louise McCarthy, President and CEO of the Community Clinic Association of Los Angeles County (CCALAC).

"This rule would undermine the health, safety and well-being of immigrant families and our communities. It would also reverse the critical strides California has achieved in improving comprehensive, culturally competent and innovative care," said McCarthy. "The rule has not yet gone into effect. CCALAC will work closely with our partners to fight this proposal, protect our immigrant communities and ensure that our patients remain able to safely access health care services and programs."

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Statement: CCALAC Joins United Way of Greater LA's Everyone In Campaign

Posted: August 29, 2018

11:06 AM | ELAIZA TORRALBA | [LEAVE A COMMENT](#)

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Los Angeles – August 29, 2018 – Community Clinic Association of Los Angeles County (CCALAC) is proud to join United Way of Greater Los Angeles's *Everyone In*, an advocacy campaign led by a diverse coalition of leaders from philanthropy, business, labor, faith, and community organizations fighting for the common goal of ending homelessness across Los Angeles County.

“Community clinics are committed to delivering high quality, comprehensive services designed to improve health and end homelessness. We look forward to working with local leaders on implementing patient-centered and housing-focused solutions to homelessness through the Everyone In campaign,” said Louise McCarthy, President and CEO of CCALAC.

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Statement: Increased State Revenues Positive for CA – CCALAC Urges Administration to Reconsider 340B Program Elimination

Posted: May 14, 2018

1:56 PM | ELAIZA TORRALBA | LEAVE A COMMENT

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LOS ANGELES – May 14, 2018 – Last Friday, Governor Jerry Brown released the May Revision to the 2018-19 State Budget. Despite acknowledging a projected additional \$8 billion in higher revenue, the Governor continues his familiar calls for fiscal restraint and warning of future recessions.

Though limited on-going commitments are being made with the additional revenue, we are pleased to see homelessness and mental health services highlighted as areas for new investments. However, we are concerned that the May Revision continues to include the proposed elimination of the 340B Drug Discount Program in Medi-Cal, which allows community health centers to access pharmaceuticals at discounted pricing. Eliminating the use of the 340B program would be extremely detrimental to community health centers that depend on 340B savings to enhance patient services, expand hours of operations, and provide other critical patient support programs in their communities. It would also mean less resources in our communities and in California – when health centers get 340B discounts, all of the savings stay with the health center and its patients; when the state collects drug rebates, only about 1/3 of state drug rebate dollars stay in California, the rest must be shared with the federal government.

We urge the Administration to reconsider its efforts to eliminate use of the 340B program which will take a critical source of savings away from public health care systems and other safety net providers. At a time when our state is fiscally strong, it is even more imperative that we support our safety net by keeping these critically needed funds in our health centers and in our communities.

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Statement: Red Alert Downgraded – Threat Remains High

Posted: February 9, 2018

3:23 PM | ELAIZA TORRALBA | LEAVE A COMMENT

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LOS ANGELES – February 9, 2018 – This morning Congress passed a continuing resolution through March 23, which includes two years of funding for community health centers and other important health programs. While the #RedAlert4CHCs crisis has been averted, the threat level for our communities remains high. We are bracing for the expiration of the Deferred Action for Childhood arrivals (DACA) Program as well as release of the Administration’s rules that would make it harder for legal immigrants to get permanent residency if they or their American-born children use safety net services. CCALAC thanks our Members of Congress for supporting health centers and standing up for our communities.

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Speakers Outline Dire Consequence of Federal Inaction on Health Center Funding, Highlight

Impacts on Key Health Care Programs

Posted: January 24, 2018

11:22 AM | ELAIZA TORRALBA | LEAVE A COMMENT

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Remarks from LA Area Health Leaders Press Call

******A recording of today's discussion is available here******

Los Angeles, CA – The Community Clinic Association of Los Angeles County (CCALAC), The Children's Partnership (TCP), and the Northeast Valley Health Corporation (NEVHC) held a press briefing today outlining the impact of Congressional inaction on funding for community health centers, and other critical "health care extenders" that comprise the health care safety net.

According to Louise McCarthy, President and CEO of CCALAC, "Congress has funded healthcare for children, but hasn't funded the systems that serve them. With the passage of a continuing resolution, Congress now only has weeks to act before community health centers run out of funds. That, along with their inaction on Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) is going to undermine the stability of our communities. Health centers are hanging in the balance – they're doing the best they can to plan for the future, but it's very uncertain. At the same time, health centers are also stepping up, advocating and reaching out to their communities, to their Members of Congress, and beseeching them to fix this funding cliff."

Mayra Alvarez, President of TCP, said "Our work to eliminate health disparities and ensure health equity for children is fueled by the success of programs like CHIP and its combined impact with other programs – like health centers – to help families raise their children and to ultimately give every child a fair shot at success. Families in California do not have the luxury to worry about issues one at a time – whether that is CHIP coverage, passage of the Dream Act, wondering if their health center will remain open, or if their home visiting program will be available."

Vilma Champion, Director of Managed Care at NEVHC, said "Community health centers emphasize comprehensive primary and preventive care, oftentimes becoming the gateway to diagnosing and treating public health issues. Our presence in the community not only benefits residents who need our services but also relieves the strain on emergency rooms at local hospitals. NEVHC's federal HRSA grant makes up 13% of its operating budget. Without this funding we have no choice but to cut back on staff, patients and services. More specifically, a lapse in funding would impact 10,000 patients, over 40,000 patient visits, and the salaries of 125 NEVHC staff members. Although we are happy that CHIP funding has been authorized, our CHIP patients would lose access to care if our doors at NEVHC are closed."

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About CCALAC

The Community Clinic Association of Los Angeles County (CCALAC) is the largest regional association of community clinics and health centers in California. Founded in 1994, CCALAC has 63 members that operate over 350 clinic sites, serving 1.6 million County residents. CCALAC is dedicated to serving and representing the interests of its member clinics as providers of quality health care, including medical, dental and pharmacy services.

About TCP

The Children's Partnership (TCP) is a California-based national children's advocacy organization committed to improving the lives of underserved children where they live, learn, and play with breakthrough solutions at the intersection of research, policy, and community engagement. Since 1993, TCP has been a leading voice for children and a critical resource for communities across California and the nation, working every day to champion policies that provide all children with the resources and opportunities they need to thrive.

About NEVHC

Northeast Valley Health Corporation (NEVHC) was incorporated in 1971 by a group of San Fernando Valley civic leaders who envisioned establishing a healthcare system that catered to the medical needs of the local community. They opened San Fernando Health Center in 1973 and celebrated its dedication with the late U.S. Senator Ted. Kennedy. Today, NEVHC has grown to 14 health centers in the San Fernando and Santa Clarita valleys and continue to serve the uninsured and the medically underserved patients with limited financial resources. Nearly 70,000 patients receive medical, dental and behavioral health care at our health centers every year. NEVHC, one of the nation's largest community health centers, is a nonprofit Joint Commission accredited Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC).

Statement: Los Angeles Bracing for Crisis as Shutdown Looms

Posted: January 19, 2018

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LOS ANGELES – January 19, 2018 – With the shutdown of the federal government on the horizon, communities across Los Angeles are bracing for crisis. The failure to fund the government, along with critical health programs, comes at a very high price.

In Los Angeles, 1.6 million residents rely on community health centers for their care. These health centers will lose 70% of their federal funding on April 1st. Along with the loss of the Children’s Health Insurance Program and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), this undermines the stability of our communities. CCALAC urges Congress to come to an agreement that protects our communities.

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Statement: New HHS Division Will Have Harmful Effects on Access to Care

Posted: January 19, 2018

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LOS ANGELES – January 19, 2018 – CCALAC represents community clinics and health centers, institutions that pride themselves on providing health care to all. We are deeply concerned about the Trump Administration’s announcement this week regarding the establishment of a Conscience and Religious Freedom Division in the Office for Civil Rights of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. This new division appears poised to allow health care workers to refuse to perform,

accommodate, or assist with provision of services on religious or moral grounds. It is critical that this new HHS division not take any actions that would permit unlawful discrimination or deny access to appropriate health care services based on gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity or other personal characteristics.

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Clinic Association Names Courtney Powers as Director of Government and External Affairs

Posted: January 4, 2018

9:00 AM | ELAIZA TORRALBA | [LEAVE A COMMENT](#)

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LOS ANGELES – January 5, 2018– The **Community Clinic Association of Los Angeles County (CCALAC)** has named Courtney Powers as the organization’s new Director of Government and External Affairs, effective January 8th. In this role, Ms. Powers will drive the development, implementation and evaluation of the Association’s government and public relations activities.

“With both threat and opportunity looming at the Federal, State and local levels, CCALAC and LA’s community clinics and health centers are at a pivotal moment in our development,” said Louise McCarthy, CCALAC’s President & CEO. “Courtney Powers brings an exceptional level of



experience and expertise to guide our government and external affairs in this critical time.”

Prior to joining CCALAC, Ms. Powers served as Vice President and General Counsel to GRACE (Gather Respect Advocate Change Engage) since 2013. In this role, she advanced the organization’s agenda to reduce child poverty through legislative initiatives and secured federal and local funds to support programs and services. Ms. Powers was also the Vice President of Public Policy and the Director of Advocacy and Government Affairs at the Daughters of Charity Health System, and has served as an adjunct professor at UCLA School of Law, Occidental College, the Los Angeles Community College District and UCLA Extension.

Ms. Powers holds a Juris Doctorate from the UCLA School of Law and earned her Bachelor’s degree in political science from U.C. Berkeley, Phi Beta Kappa. She is the current President of the UCLA School of Law Alumni Association.

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