



ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF FREE & CHARITABLE CLINICS

IAFCC Response to 2023 JB Pritzker Budget and State of the State Address

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“Yesterday, Illinois Governor JB Pritzker gave the annual Budget and State of the State Address. The Illinois Association of Free & Charitable Clinics (IAFCC) applauds and unites with Governor Pritzker on his support for healthcare workers. For many years, free and charitable clinics across the state of Illinois, have provided essential healthcare to those most in need; those who often fall through the cracks of our healthcare system. Working primarily with volunteers, dedicated staff and limited budgets, these clinics have brought high quality medical, mental, dental care and other services to tens of thousands of Illinoisans in their communities,” said Jeffrey Trask, Board Chair of the IAFCC and Founder and CEO of Champaign Christian Health Care Center.

IAFCC Executive Director Melissa Maguire added, “We hope that the General Assembly supports Governor Pritzker's proposed initiatives related to food security, homelessness, reproductive health, and behavioral health which greatly impact the populations that our clinics serve. Governor Pritzker's proposal to establish a portal dedicated to helping people and organizations like our clinics get timely, accurate information on behavioral health resources is a concept that would be invaluable to the populations we serve. We appreciate Governor Pritzker past and current efforts to stabilize the State of Illinois's finances providing security for human and social services providers”.

In last year's Illinois General Assembly Budget Session, the IAFCC received its first ever Illinois State appropriation. The \$9 million allocation is currently being used to provide support to IAFCC's member clinics' in assisting uninsured and underinsured people living with acute and chronic health issues through medical care, outreach, health education, screening and testing, oral health care and behavioral health services. Funds also supported expenses in assisting and making referrals for prevention, vaccination and testing of COVID-19.

Founded in 2005, the IAFCC was formed to help strengthen and grow Illinois' free and charitable clinics – without whom over 100,000 patients would otherwise have no access to quality healthcare. The IAFCC helps free and charitable clinics move effectively into the future; connects patients with clinics; and helps many stakeholder organizations who wish to work with or help clinics. The IAFCC is also a member of The National Association of Free and Charitable Clinics (NAFC). The association's mission is to strengthen the Illinois safety net to maximize the collective impact of free and charitable clinics by representing and resourcing them to ensure equitable, accessible, and quality healthcare for all. The vision – equitable and high-quality healthcare customized for - and by - every community in Illinois through free and charitable clinics.