

**Testimony**  
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**7<sup>th</sup> District Health Task Force**  
**CCHHS Board Meeting Oct 27, 2017**

In response to the accelerated attacks on immigrant and Muslim communities, people across the nation have organized fight back campaigns to protect people's fundamental right to health and well-being.

The Chicago area Public Health Woke Coalition, a grouping with over 19 organizations has over the past eight months presented to the Cook County Health and Hospital System (CCHHS) Board testimony including personal stories of need and background materials with examples of best practices.

We asked that the Cook County Health System put in place best practices and guarantee that staff have the training and resources necessary to fulfill County's tradition of serving all people. Our coalition listed six demands for meeting that goal. After eight months, many meetings and promises we present a **REPORT CARD** on the progress made to date on those demands. You have the full Report Card.

The Health System's overall grade is at the best a D-. The easiest demand to meet, abundant and clear signage still has not appeared. Staff education, an essential component, still has not happened except within the Cook County Dept. of Public Health and few ACHN clinics. This despite direct recommendations to CCHHS leadership by this Board's workgroup. There has been no movement on establishment of a referral system, monitoring indicators of neighborhood stress and implementation of best practices for clinical care.

At Highland Hospital, a public hospital in Oakland, a registered nurse with over 30 years of experience and an active member of her union, SEIU, was deported 2 months ago with her husband and 12-year-old son. Many of you have read the recent stories of Border Patrol agents taking shifts outside a 10-year old's hospital room waiting to deport her and her family ([Independent 10 26](#)) and the story of ICE agents entering the ICU room of one of the survivors found in unventilated trailer parked in a San Antonio Walmart. ([NPR 8 17 17](#))

To ensure people the right to healthcare in safe, affirming, and welcoming spaces, CCHHS will need to take a leading role in developing training, protocols, and communications channels that make hospitals and clinics sanctuaries for all—and conveys that to patients and communities. We are here to make sure that happens.