



Immigration and Children's Access to Health Care

September 26, 2006

WHEREAS, the number of Chicago-area immigrants ranks seventh in the nation, with 1.4 million immigrants from more than 100 countries who constitute 18 percent of the overall population. Metro Chicago ranks fifth nationally in the size of its immigrant population; and

WHEREAS, immigration has played a critical demographic role in metropolitan Chicago, having accounted for three-quarters of all population growth in the 1990s; and

WHEREAS, the Latino population in the six-county Chicago area has quadrupled from 5 percent in 1970 to 20 percent in 2004; and is projected to grow to 39 percent by 2030; and

WHEREAS, Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago's mission calls us to provide care to children to the best of our abilities and to the limits of our resources - regardless of a child's race, ethnicity, or immigration status; and

WHEREAS, Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago has an institutional position to engage in policy and program initiatives to improve access to health insurance for children; and

WHEREAS, legislation that makes hospital employees responsible for disclosing patients' immigration status to the government would provide a disincentive for undocumented parents to seek treatment for their children; and

WHEREAS, health care workers should not be penalized for providing care to undocumented patients; and

WHEREAS, the federal government does not currently reimburse hospitals for transplants or post-transplant care for children who are undocumented;

LET IT THEREFORE BE RESOLVED, that Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago engage in policy and program initiatives to urge policymakers to increase children's access to health care regardless of immigration status; and be it further RESOLVED that Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago will work to ensure that such legislation will not penalize health care professionals for providing care to children who are undocumented or require health care professionals to disclose patients' immigration status to the government.