

## Statement from Dorri McWhorter, Chief Executive Officer YWCA Metropolitan Chicago on Legislative Approval of HB 158

March 25, 2021

Bringing justice to all Illinois communities means eliminating the barriers brought on by systemic racism and other forms of discrimination. It means providing the health, educational, and economic opportunities to everyone in this state so that all children and families can thrive.

Today, members of the Illinois General Assembly once again moved us closer to that goal with the Senate's passage of HB 158. This sweeping package of health and human services reforms represents the fourth pillar of the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus agenda that holds the promise of truly transforming Illinois to a more equitable and inclusive state. The bill also includes language creating a state Racial Impact Note Act that would make Illinois one of only two states with such a measure.

YWCA Metropolitan Chicago thanks the Black Caucus and all the other members of the Illinois legislature who supported this bill and others dealing with education, the criminal justice system, and economic reforms. Our work is not yet done, but we are getting closer to our goal of peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all.