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**YWCA Metropolitan Chicago
Statement on passing of Illinois House Bill 158
April 27, 2021**

YWCA Metropolitan Chicago thanks Governor J.B. Pritzker for signing into law today HB 158, a bill representing a package of reform measures to address health and human service inequities in our state.

YWCA Metropolitan Chicago was founded in 1876 and has since provided direct services and public policy advocacy to ensure that our communities have all of the resources and opportunities they need to thrive. We believe that Illinois communities cannot thrive without healthy citizens and that the right to safety, health, education, and economic opportunity should extend to all citizens. We must address the stark racial and ethnic disparities that plague many of our communities. Medicaid coverage for perinatal doula services, community health worker certification, and implicit bias training for healthcare professionals are all measures contained in this bill and steps towards racial equity.

Furthermore, this bill includes the Racial Impact Note Act which requires a state agency, upon the request of a legislator, to review the impact of potential legislation on racial and ethnic minorities. Illinois is now one of the few states in the country to have such a law that provides a measure of protection against future legislation's exacerbation of existing racial and ethnic disparities.

YWCA Metropolitan Chicago's mission is to eliminate racism, empower women and promote peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all. This bill, along with the other bills put forward by the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus and passed by the General Assembly, represents progress toward our mission.