

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY FOR FINANCE COMMITTEE BUDGET HEARINGS  
20-4595 - FY 2021 EXECUTIVE BUDGET RECOMMENDATION**

	Witness Name:	Organization (if any):	City/Town:
79	Margie Schaps	Health & Medicine Policy Research Group	Chicago
80	Jo Ann Lingle	NNU	Chicago
81	Ana Guajardo	Centro de Trabajadores Unidos: United Workers' Center	Chicago
82	Liza Gutierrez	POC	Palatine

# #79

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
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**Time Spent:** 00:02:11  
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## Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name:	<b>Margie Schaps</b>
Organization (if any):	<b>Health &amp; Medicine Policy Research Group</b>
City/Town:	<b>Chicago</b>
State:	<b>IL</b>
ZIP:	<b>60602</b>

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## Q2

Written Statement? You can type or copy/paste any written statement you want included in the meeting record here. If this is not enough space, or you have other attachments for distribution, please email them to [cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov](mailto:cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov)

Health & Medicine Policy Research Group  
Testimony on the 2021 Cook County Budget  
Specific Comments on the Cook County Health Budget  
October 29, 2020

Good afternoon President Preckwinkle and Commissioners. I appreciate this opportunity to comment on the 2021 budget. I am Margie Schaps, the Executive Director of the Health & Medicine Policy Research Group, a group that has stood in support of a strong and vibrant Cook County Health System since our founding in 1981.

Cook County Health is the cornerstone of the healthcare ecosystem in Cook County. Without this vital system of hospitals, clinics, jail health and public health, it is not hyperbolic to say that other parts of our safety net will also come down. And the impact on non safety net institutions will be enormous. As we see other institutions in our county close or threaten to close, the responsibility of taking care of the people who depend on those systems falls largely on the County.

Covid-19 has laid bare the racial and ethnic disparities in health in our country. It has disproportionately hit communities of color, the elderly, the poor and those most disadvantaged. These are the people who depend on our County health system that has a mission to take care of ALL in need. The staff of CCH have done a remarkable job in these challenging times- but there is no end in sight and their ability to keep addressing COVID while caring for the myriad other health problems facing their patients must be paramount. It is your burden and responsibility to ensure that the system has the resources to take care of ALL who need it.

With current budget allocations, the burden on the system is unsustainable. Several things need to be put in place:

1. We acknowledge and applaud the increase of 40\$ Million into the health system budget for next year, and see this as critical to helping the system function. Sadly, this is not enough- the coronavirus is raging across the country and here in Cook County. Between this uptick in cases, the loss of jobs and with them employer based health insurance because of the virus' impact on the economy, and the closure of other safety net institutions, the burden on CCH is unprecedented. The influx of funds through the CARES Act for contact tracing is not likely to continue beyond next summer. Additional funds need to be reallocated or raised to support needed services and sufficient staffing to address increased need. These times call for courage and creativity from you, our leaders.

2. The CCH Independent Board, or the Cook County Board should call for a summit of area hospitals to discuss a regional plan for collectively addressing the regional distribution of care and the growing amount of uncompensated care. Area hospitals know that their tax exempt status is dependent on community benefits and covering care for those without insurance is part of that responsibility. Furthermore they know the grave impact on their systems if the County system fails.

We are in the midst of a pandemic the likes of which none of us have seen in our lifetimes and there is no end in sight to the economic and health devastation of this pandemic. But it is clear that the path forward goes directly through health and healing. Without adequate investment in our health system, recovery is all but impossible.

This moment demands that you be bold and provide all the funds the health system needs to address this pandemic and the health of the most marginalized and vulnerable among us.

Health & Medicine board and staff are ready and willing to support the County in any way we can.

## Q3

Acknowledgement of submitting written testimony only

**I understand that by submitting written comments here, I am not signing up to speak live (virtually) at the hearing. I am only submitting written comments to be posted online as part of the official record.**

#80

COMPLETE

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Thursday, October 29, 2020 12:00:21 PM  
**Last Modified:** Thursday, October 29, 2020 12:24:00 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:23:38  
**IP Address:** 65.30.224.101

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### Q1

Please provide some basic information

**Witness Name:** Jo Ann Lingle  
**Organization (if any):** NNU  
**City/Town:** Chicago  
**State:** IL  
**ZIP:** 60640

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### Q2

Written Statement? You can type or copy/paste any written statement you want included in the meeting record here. If this is not enough space, or you have other attachments for distribution, please email them to [cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov](mailto:cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov)

Will structural racism drive Cook County budget cuts for southside residents depending on Provident ER? Asthma, heart, stroke, diabetic, and drug emergencies happen 24/7. 2019 75% of ER visits happened at Provident and Mercy hospitals. U of Chicago went on bypass 17% of the time over past 2.5 years. Where will people go when minutes count if we lose Provident and Mercy ERs? Expect increased preventable death when ERs close. The Cook County budget must sustain Provident Hospital ER for life south side. 2020/2021 forward we must end structural racism-now a public health crisis USA. I urge you support and sustain Provident Hospital ER in the Cook County Budget. Thank you for your attention and service. J. Lingle, RN

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### Q3

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# #81

COMPLETE

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**Last Modified:** Thursday, October 29, 2020 12:45:25 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:01:27  
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## Q1

Please provide some basic information

**Witness Name:** Ana Guajardo  
**Organization (if any):** Centro de Trabajadores Unidos: United Workers' Center  
**City/Town:** Chicago  
**State:** IL  
**ZIP:** 60617

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## Q2

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Centro de Trabajadores Unidos: United Workers' Center is a grassroots organization that works in assisting immigrant workers in the Southeast Side of Chicago and South Suburbs. Unfortunately we have seen over the years the injustices that occur to a vulnerable group of people. We have had several cases where good leaders face the harsh circumstances of being held in ICE custody and separated from their families because of a flawless system that oppresses hard working residents. We ask that you please support this proposal to fund the immigration unit at the public defenders office.

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## Q3

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# #82

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**Time Spent:** 00:08:36  
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## Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name:	<b>Liza Gutierrez</b>
Organization (if any):	<b>POC</b>
City/Town:	<b>Palatine</b>
State:	<b>IL</b>
ZIP:	<b>60133</b>

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## Q2

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Thanking President Preckwinkle for your support and recommendation to fund the immigration unit.

Legal representation changes the lives of those less fortunate who have come to this country fleeing poverty, illness and abuse. After nearly 18 years working with the immigrant population, the stories of heart break are too many to count. The nearly 1500 immigrants left to represent themselves in their immigration bond hearings in Chicago immigrant courts cannot and do not represent the number of people affected when they do so. Immigrants that go unrepresented often leave behind families that depend on them for sustenance. One persons immigration hearing, is a generation's loss of opportunity in the USA. With proper legal representation, cases are 10.5 times more likely to have positive outcomes. That is, 10.5 more positive outcomes for whole families and their generations. Please continue to fight for their legal representation.

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## Q3

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