



Jan. 13, 2021

## **OPCA Statement In Support of Democracy, Upholding the Voice of American Voters**

A week ago, on Jan. 6, 2021, we bore witness to the shocking attack on the U.S. Capitol by violent rioters who stalled the democratic process of certifying the 2020 presidential election.

This followed a grueling year for community health centers who saw the firsthand effects of the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on their patients, coworkers, families, and communities. This was also a year of incredible polarization in our nation around race, police brutality, and equitable distribution of power and resources.

Despite the events that unfolded at the nation's Capital last week, we are heartened by the strength and resiliency of our democracy. After the attack, members of Congress carried out the process of certifying the electoral college vote and, on the same day, Georgia elected its first Black senator and its first Jewish senator—a result of the historic organization and mobilization of Black voters, led by Black women. On Jan. 20, the United States will inaugurate its next legitimately elected President and Vice President, including the first woman, and the first woman of color, to serve in the vice presidential role.

The Oregon Primary Care Association (OPCA) firmly supports democracy and upholding the voice of voters who have chosen new leadership for this nation. We stand in solidarity with communities of color who continue to have to witness so many fierce and shocking examples of racism in Oregon and the nation.

We call on our elected representatives from both sides of the aisle to turn to the people's business. First and foremost, on that list is marshalling all resources to stop this deadly COVID-19 virus—we owe it to the families of the patients lost and to all the health care providers and staff on the front lines.

We look forward to working with the incoming administration on COVID-19 efforts, but also in strengthening and protecting our democracy, and in our commitment to achieving health equity for all.

### **About Oregon's CHCs**

Oregon's community health centers deliver integrated medical, dental, and behavioral health services at over 200 locations to the communities made vulnerable across the state. Over 466,000 Oregonians receive their care at a community health center, including one in four people on the Oregon Health Plan. Over 73% of patients live below the poverty line, and 94% live at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. Over 75% of community health centers have clinic sites serving rural communities, 30% of Oregon's community health centers are federally recognized as Health Care for the Homeless locations, and 33% are designated as Migrant Health Centers. Find out more about [Oregon's CHCs here](#).

### **About OPCA**

OPCA is a non-profit membership association of Oregon's 33 Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), including one FQHC Look-Alike. FQHCs are also known as community health centers (CHCs). The organization's mission is to lead the transformation of primary care to achieve health equity for all.

OPCA believes all people, in Oregon and beyond, should have the chance to lead their healthiest lives and have access to equitable health care. Oregon Primary Care Association supports a network of CHCs that deliver exceptional health care to people in urban, rural and frontier communities who may otherwise not have access to services. By helping health centers apply innovative approaches to health care delivery and system challenges, OPCA is transforming primary care in Oregon and beyond. Follow us on Twitter [@OregonPCA](#) or on [Facebook](#)