

A Statement From HSC's Board of Directors & Executive Director
Standing With Springfield and Our Immigrant Neighbors

We in the health and human services sector, and our hundreds of interconnected nonprofits and thousands of interconnected professionals, do more than provide a “social safety net” of care for anyone in need.

We must provide care with dignity and respect for the diverse communities we all serve. This is true here in Central Ohio, and it is true across the country.

And sometimes, we must stand up for the health and humanity of those we serve.

We must stand against policies that hurt others rather than help. And we must stand against words that are harmful rather than helpful.

Distressingly, we must do so now in defense of Haitian immigrants in Ohio, who have been subjected to patently false and hateful rhetoric that has resulted in dozens of bomb threats, enormous disruptions to an entire city, and incalculable fear not only for Haitian immigrants, but for all immigrants in our communities.

As Ohio Governor Mike DeWine has said, the rhetoric is not only false, it “hurts the city and its people.”

It hurts those who have lived in Springfield their entire lives, and it of course hurts those new to Springfield.

This hurtful rhetoric must stop.

And we must learn from this moment, and do better for all of us.

Our members at Community Refugee & Immigration Services said it best: “Let’s work together to break down harmful stereotypes, and build communities where everyone can thrive.”



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Executive Director
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