

From: [OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK](#)
To: [Tracy, Mary](#)
Subject: FW: Support for Court Rule - General Rule 38
Date: Monday, February 24, 2020 3:51:38 PM
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From: Bob Marsalli [mailto:BMarsalli@wacommunityhealth.org]
Sent: Monday, February 24, 2020 3:48 PM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: Support for Court Rule - General Rule 38

Kind Reader –

The Washington Association for Community Health (the Association) supports the adoption of **General Rule 38** which will protect the rights of immigrants in our state.

The Association represents Washington's 27 federally qualified community health centers which provide affordable primary medical, oral, and behavioral healthcare services and supports to over 1,000,000 low income Washingtonians. The adoption of *General Rule 38* matters to Washington's community health centers and their patients because we believe that people want to resolve their court matters, and they have the right to go to court regardless of nationality or citizenship status. However, warrantless immigration arrests are causing community members to choose between going to court or being deported. If courts are viewed as staging grounds for immigration arrests, people will avoid going to court out of fear and will lose trust in Washington's judicial system.

Just as we believe that no one should be denied access to necessary, basic healthcare, so no one should be afraid to go to court because of their immigration status. Yet immigrants and their families are being deterred from appearing in State courts by an aggressive federal immigration force that is spreading fear in immigrant communities. The Association believes strongly that General Rule 38 is necessary to maintain and promote access to justice for all Washingtonians, regardless of their immigration status.

Sincerely,

Bob A. Marsalli | Chief Executive Officer



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