

## **HEALTHCARE IS A HUMAN RIGHT**

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## CLINICA ROMERO CEO CARLOS VAQUERANO'S STATEMENT ON THE END OF TITLE 42

(Los Angeles, CA)—"Today marks the end of Title 42, the cruel, anti-immigrant law that turned away many people who fled their violent countries and sought a better life in the United States. It ripped families apart. This law had no place in our democracy and the country that immigrants built.

As someone who has seen first-hand what war and violence have done to our native lands, I can tell you we do not decide to leave and come here lightly. It is a painful and difficult decision to make. It is more painful than you can imagine.

Clínica Romero was founded by Salvadoran refugees who fled the bloody civil war in El Salvador in the 1980s. They saw a need in the community and put their skills and talents to work to create an organization that touches people's lives daily. Forty years later, we now serve more than 18,000 community members.

As an immigrant myself who crossed the border 43 years ago and CEO of Clínica Romero, the largest Salvadoran organization in the country, I have witnessed thousands of people we serve begin their new lives here. Clínica Romero has been and will always be a safe place for immigrants and everyone who needs our quality medical care.

Our core values--integrity, compassion, respect, and excellence—drive us to be the best community servants we can be.

As we move forward together as a community, a state, and a country, I hope we will factor in all the contributions immigrants make to the United States and create an immigration policy that reflects that reality."

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