NHIT STATEMENT ON THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT DECISION TO STRIKE DOWN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION IN COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

Washington, D.C. – Luis Belen, CEO of the National Health IT Collaborative for the Underserved (NHIT), the first and oldest national non-profit focused on equitable access to health technology for underserved communities and communities of color issued the following statement:

At NHIT, we are deeply saddened by the Supreme Court’s decision to walk away from decades of precedent that has enabled America’s colleges and universities to build vibrant, diverse environments where students are prepared to lead and learn from one another. I, along with thousands of members of our national network healthcare and IT professionals, are a testament to the positive impact of these policies on access to opportunities for professional development and upward mobility. Opportunities that are directly linked to our educational success. We live in a moment where there is a deficiency in healthcare professionals. We need more people accessing higher education, not less. We cannot go back in time. How is it that race cannot be a factor when legality continues to be, even when it is widely known that it benefits a specific racial group? This may be a heartbreaking moment for many of us, but we are thankful for the leadership of President Joe Biden and Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona. They have called on colleges and universities, when selecting among qualified applicants, to give serious consideration to the adversities students have overcome, including racial discrimination and financial hardships. In doing so, colleges and universities can fully value aspiring students who demonstrate resilience and determination in the face of deep challenges. Over the coming months, we look forward to continue supporting the efforts to ensure that all students can have access to higher education. It is good for our students, for our higher education institutions, for our healthcare and high-tech industry, and most important of all, it is good for our country.

About NHIT:
NHIT is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization on a mission to provide equitable access to health technologies and to make sure that these technologies address the needs of underserved communities and communities of color. Since its founding in 2008, NHIT has worked to advance health equity and economic viability on issues such as broadband access, electronic health records, precision medicine, consumer health applications and disaster resiliency. NHIT has collaborated with Amazon Web Services (AWS), and Tyler Technologies to launch the NHIT Data Fusion Center, to tackle and translate social determinants of health (SDoH) data into actionable insights. For more information, visit NHIT.org.

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