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**Lee Che P. Leong honored as
Families USA's Health Justice Advocate of the Year for Health Coverage**

SEATTLE, WA – Families USA has recognized Lee Che P. Leong, Policy Analyst at Northwest Health Law Advocates, as the 2023 Health Justice Advocate of the Year for Health Coverage. Several of Leong's peers nominated her for the award due to her advocacy on expanding coverage to Washington state's families and individuals regardless of immigration status. She will be officially recognized during Families USA's January 27 Awards Luncheon as part of its 2023 Health Action Conference.

"Lee Che is playing a critical role removing barriers to health and health care for families in America, regardless of where they were born," said Frederick Isasi, Executive Director of Families USA. "Her tireless efforts to expand coverage for all people in Washington state regardless of their immigration status ensures all families in the State have a real shot at being able to access affordable health care and be full members of their community. Her work is an example for the nation."

Leong has extensive non-profit advocacy expertise and regularly shares strategies, and best practices with other state advocates and partners to ensure collective action on health care issues, with particular emphasis on ensuring immigrants have access to health care. She collaborated on the launch of two of Washington state's Accountable Communities of Health and directed the New York Civil Liberties Union's Teen Health Initiative. She also volunteered on the board of the Mt. Baker (WA) Planned Parenthood for nine years and recently served as its treasurer.

"I am proud to accept this award, which is truly a recognition of the extensive work by many advocates who continue to collaborate on expanding health coverage to all Washingtonians regardless of immigration status," said Leong. "Northwest Health Law Advocates is grateful to have the support of Families USA and the national health advocacy community to strengthen our efforts ensuring that all people have meaningful access to health care."

Each year during its Health Action Conference, Families USA honors state and community leaders who are advancing social justice through health care advocacy. Awards represent the organization's four focus areas: Health Equity, Health Care Value, Coverage, and People's Experience.

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