**Sylvia Puente Votes Against Marijuana Tax Plan Due to Insufficient Equity Metrics**

Forum President & CEO Sylvia Puente, appointed to the Restore, Reinvest, and Renew (R3) Program by Lt. Governor Juliana Stratton, was the R3 board’s only dissenting vote on grants allocated to distribute 25 percent of marijuana sales tax revenue to “reduce the intended and collateral consequences of violence, excessive incarceration, and economic disinvestment in Illinois communities,” due to its lack of resource investment in the Latino community

“Despite all the discussion around equity, there were only equity metrics by region,” Puente says. “There were no apparent metrics to ensure racial and ethnic equity in the allocation of these resources. Of the $31.4 million distributed, it appears that less than 1 percent will go to organizations that predominantly serve Latino communities.”