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RAOUL: CHICAGO WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO DEFRAUDING STATE OUT OF APPROXIMATELY \$100,000 IN MEDICAID FUNDING

Chicago — Attorney General Kwame Raoul announced that a Chicago doctor pleaded guilty to Medicaid fraud for fraudulently billing the state for Medicaid services she never provided.

Dr. Manuela Farhi, 62, of Chicago, pleaded guilty to felony vendor fraud and was sentenced to 24 months of probation and ordered to perform 30 hours of community service. Cook County Circuit Court Judge Steven G. Watkins also ordered Farhi to immediately pay the state \$25,000 in restitution, as well as additional court fees. Farhi must also submit to random drug testing and DNA indexing.

"I am committed to protecting the state's Medicaid funding for the thousands of residents and families who rely on the program for health care," Raoul said. "Defrauding the people of Illinois by misusing Medicaid resources will not be tolerated."

Farhi served women enrolled in Illinois' Medicaid program through her practice as an OB/GYN at 7010 West North Avenue in Chicago. The Attorney General's office alleged that between 2008 and 2015, she billed the state for approximately \$100,000 in services that were not provided. According to the Attorney General's office, Farhi billed the state for services she never provided to patients, including services billed while she was out of the country.

The case was investigated by the Illinois State Police Medicaid Fraud Control Bureau.

"Fraud that undermines trust in these services cannot be tolerated, so the Illinois State Police are glad justice was served in this case" said Illinois State Police Director Brendan F. Kelly. "This program is meant to assist individuals who are truly in need of assistance, which is why the Illinois State Police Medicaid Fraud Control Bureau remains committed to investigating these cases."

Assistant Attorney General Rob Sparano handled the case for Raoul's Medicaid Fraud Bureau.