



Committee: Health and Government Operations Committee

Bill: House Bill 568 - Community Health Worker Appreciation Day

Hearing Date: March 14, 2024

Position: Support

The Maryland Nurses Association (MNA) supports *House Bill 568 - Community Health Worker Appreciation Day*. This bill requires the Governor to proclaim May 8th as Community Health Worker Appreciation Day.

Nurses regularly work with community health workers (CHWs), who connect community members to health care services, advocate for their community, and generally serve as a bridge between communities and the health care system. These efforts yield positive results, since studies have shown that CHWs can improve chronic disease management, increase access to preventive care, and reduce health care costs¹. Increasing the visibility of CHWs in this way would help to pursue the goal of increasing health equity in the state. *We support increasing the visibility of these critical partners in community health.*

We urge a favorable report. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net or (443) 926-3443.

¹ Community Health Worker Integration with and Effectiveness in Health Care and Public Health in the United States, Annual Review of Public Health, Vol. 44:363-381, <https://www.annualreviews.org/doi/10.1146/annurev-publhealth-071521-031648>