



Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

March 14, 2024

The Honorable Joseline A. Peña-Melnyk
Chair, House Health and Government Operations Committee
Room 241, House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: House Bill 568 – Community Health Worker Appreciation Day– Letter of Support

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (Department) respectfully submits this letter of support for House Bill 568 – Community Health Worker Appreciation Day – Letter of Support.

House Bill (HB) 568 requires the Governor to annually proclaim May 8th as Community Health Worker Appreciation Day, and urge educational and cultural organizations to observe community health workers with informative programs and activities.

On May 8, 2018, the Community Health Worker (CHW) Act was signed into law, which established the State CHW Advisory Committee, and the Certification of CHWs, and the Accreditation of CHW Certification Training Program within the Department. The proposed proclamation of a Community Health Worker Appreciation Day will provide an opportunity for the Department to formally recognize and show appreciation to the over 1000 CHWs certified by the Department. CHWs play a critical role in the state’s public health and health care workforce. They serve as a liaison between behavioral health, social services, and the community. They also improve the quality and cultural competence of service delivery.

If you have any further questions, please contact Sarah Case-Herron, Director, Office of Governmental Affairs at sarah.case-herron@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H.
Secretary