April 3, 2025

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman
Chair, Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: House Bill 65 – Community Health Worker Appreciation Day– Letter of Support

Dear Chair Feldman and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) respectfully submits this letter of support for House Bill 65 – Community Health Worker Appreciation Day.

House Bill 65 (HB 65) requires the Governor to annually proclaim May 8th as Community Health Worker Appreciation Day, and urge educational and cultural organizations to observe the Community Health Worker Appreciation Day 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, the certification of CHWs, and the accreditation of CHW Certification Training Programs within MDH. The proposed proclamation of a Community Health Worker Appreciation Day is supported by MDH as it provides an opportunity for MDH to formally recognize and celebrate the more than 2000 CHWs certified by MDH since the program's inception in 2018.

A Community Health Worker Appreciation Day will also allow MDH to appreciate the critical partnership and contribution of CHWs as members of the state's public health and healthcare workforce. CHWs act as liaisons between health and social services, and the communities they serve to improve the quality and cultural competence of service delivery.

MDH CHW Program staff, the State CHW Advisory Committee, and other MDH partners will collaborate with CHW workforce organizations and stakeholders to engage CHWs across the state in celebrating the CHW Appreciation Day.

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

Sincerely,

Ryan B. Moran, DrPH, MHSA
Acting Secretary