

HB 65
Community Health Worker Appreciation Day
Hearing of the Senate Education, Energy & The Environment Committee
April 3rd, 2025
1:00 PM

Position: SUPPORT

My name is Tiffany Scott, I serve as the Co-founder, President, and Chair of the Maryland Community Health Worker Association (CHW) and the Vice Chair of the Maryland CHW Advisory Committee. I am also proud to be the first certified Community Health Worker in the state of Maryland. I am writing in strong support of HB 65, which would require the Governor to annually proclaim May 8th as Community Health Worker Appreciation Day. This proclamation would urge educational and cultural organizations to observe Community Health Workers with informative programs and activities.

Community Health Workers play a critical role in public health and healthcare systems, bridging gaps between communities and essential services. CHWs work tirelessly to address social determinants of health, advocate for underserved populations, and connect individuals to vital resources that improve their well-being. Their work reduces health disparities, enhances access to care, saves the health care system money and promotes healthier communities across Maryland.

HB 65 is important to me because CHWs deserve recognition for the invaluable work they do every day. Despite being frontline public health professionals, CHWs often operate without the acknowledgment and support they deserve. A dedicated Community Health Worker Appreciation Day would not only honor the commitment and impact of CHWs but also increase public awareness and understanding of the field. Furthermore, this recognition can encourage greater investment in CHW programs, workforce development, and long-term sustainability for the profession.

As someone who has dedicated my career to advancing the CHW profession in Maryland, I know firsthand the challenges CHWs face—from financial barriers to workforce recognition and professional growth opportunities. This proclamation would be a meaningful step in elevating the profession and ensuring that CHWs continue to thrive in their essential roles.

Thank you, and I urge the Committee to please vote **YES** on HB 65 to **declare May 8th as CHW Appreciation Day in Maryland.**

Sincerely,

Tiffany Scott, CCHW, CHWI

