

HB 871
Health Services Cost Review Commission - Community Benefits
- Community Health Worker Workforce Program
Hearing of the House Health & Government Operations Committee
February 26, 2025
1:00 PM

Position: SUPPORT

TSESSEBE Technologies, L.L.C. is writing in strong support of HB 871. TSESSEBE Technologies, L.L.C is a women and minority-owned, for-profit technology small business providing computer programming, research and development, and consulting services focused on underserved populations. We are co-located in Maryland, USA and Harare, Zimbabwe. We have partners across the globe. Our commitment is two-fold: research and development of digital technologies for underserved populations; and technology training short courses for the general population and stakeholders in the communities we serve. The company was founded in March 2022.

HB 871 would clarify in Maryland's Community Benefit statute that non-profit hospitals may invest in community health needs by collaborating with community based organizations (CBOs) to develop a community health worker workforce. It would also require non-profit hospitals and CBOs to have a Memorandum of Understanding describing different aspects of the CHW workforce program, including the program design, goals, and HIPAA compliant data sharing protocols. Finally, it would require one of the parties to provide employer-sponsored health insurance to each CHW working in the program.

On behalf of TSESSEBE Technologies, we express our strong support for HB 871 and recognize the essential role that Community Health Workers (CHWs) play in improving public health and advancing health equity across Maryland. At TSESSEBE Technologies, we are committed to leveraging innovation and technology to enhance healthcare access and outcomes. We understand that CHWs serve as a critical bridge between underserved communities and healthcare providers, ensuring individuals receive the care, resources, and support they need. Their work in addressing social determinants of health, navigating healthcare systems, and providing culturally competent care is invaluable to the well-being of our communities.

The passage of HB 871 would establish a financially secure pathway to keep CHWs in the field through Maryland's nonprofit hospitals. This investment is vital for maintaining a strong CHW workforce and ensuring long-term health improvements for low-income and underserved populations. HB 871 is important to us because by supporting HB 871, Maryland will take a crucial step toward health equity, strengthening the ability of CHWs to continue their lifesaving work.

If passed, HB 871 would create a financially sustainable pathway in Maryland through our non-profit hospitals to keep CHWs in the field. It would also help our State advance health equity by utilizing CHWs to address social determinants of health and improve patient health outcomes. Thank you and I urge the Committee to please **vote YES on HB 871**. If you have any questions about this testimony, please contact [insert your contact information so the committee can contact you about the bill and send any invitation to join a subcommittee meeting to work on the bill with them to your email address].

Sincerely,

Nicollette Glasser Maunganidze



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