

**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**

One Heal+hi-Body (OH+B) (pronounced, *"One Healthy Body"*) is writing in strong support of HB 871. Founded on evidence-based research and federal (CDC, SAMSHA, NIH, FDA) wellness programming format, One Heal+hi-Body (OH+B) offers tailored programming for different life stages, ensuring relevance and impact for individuals at every phase of life—from youth to adulthood and healthy aging for seniors. With a structured approach, the movement includes workshops, challenges, and community-driven initiatives that emphasize preventative health, personal growth, social engagement, and sustainable practices. A transformative organization offering health, wellness, and fitness services dedicated to fostering holistic, prevention-centered well-being: we empower individuals, families, communities, and countries to achieve healthier lives and a more connected world. Rooted in the principle "A Healthier Me = A Healthier World," our programs integrate key domains of wellness: Spirit, Soul, Mind, Body, Assets & Capital, and Social.

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.

As a health and wellness organization committed to holistic well-being and chronic disease prevention, we recognize the essential role that Community Health Workers (CHWs) play in improving health outcomes and reducing disparities in Maryland's most vulnerable communities. CHWs are more than just healthcare professionals—they are trusted advocates who meet people where they are, providing culturally relevant education, guidance, and connections to vital resources. Their work directly contributes to improving health literacy, reducing preventable hospital visits, and ensuring that underserved populations receive the care they need.

HB 871 presents a critical opportunity to address these challenges by establishing sustainable funding through Maryland's nonprofit hospitals. This legislation will ensure that CHWs can continue their life saving work without the constant uncertainty of job instability, ultimately strengthening our state's public health infrastructure and advancing health equity. At One Heal+hi-Body, we believe that investing in CHWs is an investment in healthier communities.

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




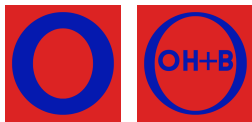
**One Heal-+hi-Body (OH+B)**

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***One Heal-+hi-Body (OH+B): A Healthier Me = A Healthier World.***