



To: House Health and Government Operations Committee

Bill: House Bill 871 – Health Services Cost Review Commission - Community Benefits - Community Health Worker Workforce Program

Date: February 26, 2025

Position: Favorable

The Maryland Academy of Physician Assistants supports *House Bill 871 – Health Services Cost Review Commission - Community Benefits - Community Health Worker Workforce Program*. The bill provides for the circumstances in hospitals can include community health worker programs with their community benefits reports to the Health Services Cost Review Commission.

MdAPA supports policies that advance integrating community health workers into health system programs. The effectiveness of CHWs is well documented and broadly agreed. A literature review conducted by the Association for State and Territorial Health Offices and the National Association of Community Health Workers found that “the number of research articles on the impact of CHW-led interventions and programs has escalated dramatically over the past fifty years, and the scientific rigor of study designs has improved notably.”ⁱ The review found that interventions by CHWs improve health outcomes and are cost-effective for certain health conditions, particularly among underserved communities.

We ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net.

ⁱ <https://www.astho.org/globalassets/pdf/community-health-workers-summary-evidence.pdf>