



Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Ryan Moran, DrPH, MHSA, Acting Secretary

March 13, 2025

The Honorable Joseline A. Peña-Melnyk
Chair, House Health and Government Operations Committee
Room 241, Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

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

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (Department) 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 the Department. The proposed proclamation of a Community Health Worker Appreciation Day is supported by the Department 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 the Department 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.

The Department's CHW Program staff, the State CHW Advisory Committee, and other 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ryan B. Moran". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Ryan B. Moran, DrPH, MHSA
Acting Secretary