



RE: Support for CHW provisions in SF 4410

Dear Chair Abeler, Chair Liebling, and members of the Health and Human Services Conference Committee,

As Minnesota organizations, we write to express our support for language (Article 1, Section 43) in the House Health Omnibus bill that will educate, strengthen, equip, evaluate, and grow the Community Health Worker (CHW) workforce.

Community Health Workers (CHWs) are a strong health equity workforce who serve as liaisons between health care, social service systems, and communities. They are trusted and trained members of the communities they serve and support for this culturally responsive workforce is an investment in Minnesota communities. Research indicates CHWs show a return on investment of at least three dollars for every dollar invested in them. They fill gaps, address the social determinants of health, work from a trauma-informed perspective, and provide the support needed so others on the health care team can work at the top of their licenses. CHWs will help grow and diversify Minnesota's health care and public health workforce, now facing serious shortages and enormous stress.

CHWs are uniquely positioned to improve health outcomes and health equity within our state. This funding will lead to increased healthcare access, lower healthcare costs, and improved health outcomes for your constituents facing health inequities and barriers to care. Additionally, this bill will further support and grow the CHW workforce. This funding will lead to increased healthcare access, lower healthcare costs, and improved health outcomes for your constituents facing health inequities and barriers to care. CHWs are an integral part of the solution.

For two decades Minnesota has been a national leader in the education and use of CHW strategies. Organizations in over 17 states across the country have adopted the Alliance's competency-based CHW curriculum and model. As the voice of Minnesota CHWs and allies, we stand ready to maintain this leadership. We would respectfully request funding for CHWs be included in the final HHS omnibus bill.

Best,
Adri Lobitz
Executive Director
[MN CHW Alliance](http://mnchwalliance.org)
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The following organizations respectfully urge you to support funding for CHWs in Minnesota:

- American Indian Cancer Foundation
- Minnesota Medical Association
- Mayo, Mankato
- Pathways to Wellness, Ely
- University of Minnesota Urban Research and Outreach-Engagement Center (UROC)
- Trellis
- Sanford, Worthington
- Red Lake Comprehensive Health Services

- Ready Set Smile
- Portico Health
- The Alliance's Board of Directors
- Minnesota Public Health Association
- Hennepin Healthcare
- Beltrami County
- Twin Cities Medical Society
- Northern Dental Access Center
- Community Dental Care
- City of Minneapolis - Health Department
- Pillsbury United Community
- Metro Youth Diversion Center
- Minnesota Association of Community Health Centers
- Rochester Community and Technical College
- Hue-MAN Partnership
- National Alliance of Mental Illness (NAMI) - MN
- Children's Minnesota
- Allina Health
- Winona Health
- NorthPoint Health
- Wellness Center, Inc