



ST. CATHERINE
UNIVERSITY

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March 2, 2023

Dear Representative Liebling

On behalf of *St. Catherine University*, I write to express our support for the Community Health Worker (CHW) line item in the Governor's Supplemental Budget to educate, strengthen, equip, evaluate and grow the CHW Workforce.

CHWs are the health equity workforce. Many CHWs represent BIPOC communities. They come from the communities they serve, providing the link to coverage and care, and are an investment in those communities. Research indicates that CHWs show a return on investment of at least three dollars for every dollar invested in them. They serve as liaisons between health care, social service systems, and communities. They also work in other systems such as public safety, public schools, childcare, elder services and many more.

CHWs are an important component to our Public Health program at St. Catherine University. Our CHW graduates play a vital role in uplifting our school's stance on being social justice advocates and extend that belief into the communities they serve. Further, as a University, we recently received federal funding through a HRSA grant to increase the amount of CHWs in the workforce. This funding has allowed us to increase education access and success for students through a scholarship and trainee support program.

CHWs' work is trauma-informed and they 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.

St. Catherine University respectfully urges you to support the funding for CHWS in the Governor's Budget. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

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