



Representative Tina Liebling
477 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55103

Dear Chair Liebling,

On behalf of Hennepin Healthcare, 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 at Hennepin Healthcare contribute to improved health outcomes and health equity by providing language, cultural and community specific navigation of the system, care coordination and connection to resources. They build trusting relationships with patients and break down barriers to access and care resulting in decreased inappropriate utilization of more acute settings of care such as the ED and Hospital and increasing visits to primary care and specialty care visits. CHWs at Hennepin Healthcare utilize an evidence based and nationally recognized CHW Pathways model, resulting in increased patient self-management and connection of patients to health and human services.

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. Hennepin Healthcare 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kristen Godfrey Walters".

Kristen Godfrey Walters, MPH
Manager, Ambulatory Care Management
Hennepin Healthcare
612-223-9799
kristen.godfreywalters@hcmcd.org