

PILLSBURY UNITED COMMUNITIES

Dear Chair Liebling,

On behalf of Pillsbury United Communities, 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.

At Pillsbury United Communities, community health workers provide essential services and play a key role in supporting community members to reach healthier outcomes. Our CHWs, our deeply embedded within the communities they serve.

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.

Pillsbury United Communities 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,

Kenzie O'Keefe

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