

# HB 5412: Community Health Worker (CHW) Bill

**Sponsors: Representatives Gabel – Hernandez – Welch – Lilly – Golar**

## *A Community Health Worker is:*

- Frontline public health worker with close understanding of the community served.
- Liaison between health, social and other non-clinical services and the community.
- Culturally and linguistically competent individual.

## *Effectiveness of CHWs:*

- Integration of CHW services within health care delivery systems is linked to **reductions in chronic illness, increased medication adherence, increased patient participation, enhanced overall community health, and reduced health care costs.**<sup>1</sup>
- CHW outreach programs have been found to have a **return on investment of more than \$2.00 for every dollar spent.**<sup>2</sup>

## *HB 5412:*

- **HB 5412** would codify the American Public Health Association (APHA) definition and establish the necessary infrastructure to promote the recognition and integration of CHWs into the workforce.
- Establishes the scope of practice and core competencies of a CHW.
- Creates the **Illinois Community Health Worker Advisory Board**, the majority of which will be CHWs, to advise the Department of Public Health, the Governor, and the General Assembly on:
  - Training and certification processes, best practices and processes, and investigating reimbursement options.
- Certification can create a pathway for CHWs to have stable jobs.
- **Does not** establish a requirement of state certification or reimbursement for CHWs, nor does it permit CHWs to act in any capacity requiring professional certification or licensure.

### **HB5412 SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS**

Access Living · AIDS Foundation of Chicago · Asian Health Coalition · Cambodian Association of Illinois · Chicago Asthma Prevention Program University of Illinois School of Public Health · Chicago Hispanic Health Coalition · Chicago Women's Aids Project · Chinese Mutual Aid Association · Chinese American Service League · Chinese Mutual Aid Association · Department of Preventive Medicine at Rush University Medical Center · EverThrive Illinois · Hanul Family Alliance · Health and Medicine Policy Research Group · HealthConnect One · Healthcare Consortium of Illinois · Healthcare Alternative Systems · Heartland Alliance for Human Needs & Human Rights · Illinois Academy of Family Physicians · Illinois Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics · Illinois Coalition for Immigrant & Refugee Rights · Illinois Public Health Association · Korean American Community Services · Mano y Mano · MidWest Latino Health Research Training Policy Center · Muslim Women Resource Center · Northwest Community Healthcare · Renz Center · Respiratory Health Association · Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law · SEIU Healthcare Illinois · Sinai Urban Health Institute · South East Illinois Area Health Education Center · South Suburban College · The Center for Faith & Community Health Transformation · Westside Health Authority · Women's Health Foundation · Vietnamese Association of Illinois

<sup>1</sup> Centers of Disease Control. *A Summary of State Community Health Worker Laws* (Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control, 2013).

<sup>2</sup> Whitely E, Everhart R, and Wright R. *Measuring Return on Investment of Outreach by Community Health Workers* (Baltimore, MD: John Hopkins University Press, 2006).