



Massachusetts Association of Community Health Workers

c/o Massachusetts Public Health Association

434 Jamaicaaway, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

An Act to Certify Community Health Workers in Massachusetts

Proposal

Create **board of certification of community health workers** in response to recommendations for a community health worker certification program mandated in Section 110 of Chapter 58 of the Acts of 2006.



Defining Workforce

Community health workers (CHWs) are public health workers who apply their unique understanding of the experience, language, and/or culture of the populations they serve in order to carry out one or more of the following roles:

- health system navigation
- outreach
- client and community advocacy
- culturally appropriate health education
- build individual and community capacity

Recent Successes

- Community health workers included in Health Reform Law
- Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) released the Community Health Workers National Workforce Study in 2007¹
- Community Health Workers have their own standard occupational classification (SOC) [21-1094] in the US Department of Labor's 2010 revisions²

Specifics

- Create board of certification of community health workers to:**
- Enhance the quality of services communities receive from CHWs
 - Support the integration of community-based wellness and prevention efforts in health reform
 - Develop CHW training that is accessible and of high quality
 - Advance CHW workforce development

Action Step

Please co-sponsor this bill.

To sign on contact Representative Gloria Fox, (617) 722-2810

For additional information, please contact Lisa Renee Holderby, Executive Director of Massachusetts Association of Community Health Workers at (617) 524-6696 x102 or holderbylr@aol.com

¹ <http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/healthworkforce/chw/>

² <http://www.bls.gov/soc/soc2010final.pdf>