



**An Act to Establish a Board of Certification of
Community Health Workers in Massachusetts (H 4130)**

Purpose

Establish a **Board of Certification of Community Health Workers** in response to recommendations for a community health worker (CHW) certification program mandated in Section 110 of Chapter 58 of the Acts of 2006.



**Rationale:
Professional
Development
of CHWs**

2006: CHWs identified in Health Care Reform

Law as critical for increasing access to health care and eliminating health disparities.

2007: Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) released a comprehensive national study of the CHW workforce¹

2009: US Department of Labor recognized CHWs as a distinctive workforce by providing CHWs with a unique standard occupational classification (SOC) [21-1094] in the 2010 revisions²

**Cost
Neutral**

The Board of Certification of CHWs would be established within the Division of Health Professions Licensure at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Startup costs will be incurred by the existing **Quality in Health Professions Trust Fund**. Future certification fees will replenish the trust.

**Benefits of
Board**

- Enhance the quality of services communities receive from CHWs
- Ensure CHW training that is accessible and of high quality
- Support financing mechanisms for a sustainable CHW workforce
- Support integration of community-based wellness and prevention efforts in health reform
- Advance CHW workforce development

**Action
Step**

Support H 4130 (formerly H 247).

To endorse the bill, contact Rep. Gloria Fox at (617) 722-2810

For additional information, contact Cindy Marti, Policy Director of Massachusetts Association of Community Health Workers at (617) 524-6696 x108 or cmarti@mphaweb.org or visit www.machw.org.

¹ *Community Health Workers National Workforce Study*, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, March 2007. <http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/healthworkforce/chw/>

² Federal Register: 2010 Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) Notices, January 21, 2009. <http://www.bls.gov/soc/soc2010final.pdf>