



Timeline for Advocating for the Bill “An Act to Establish a Board of Certification of Community Health Workers”

- January – June 2008** • MACHW holds 7 regional meetings across Massachusetts to gather input from community health workers (CHWs) on statewide CHW training and certification.
- December 2008** • MACHW drafts legislation based on input from regional meetings. The legislation language is also consistent with recommendations in the Dept. of Public Health (DPH) CHW Advisory Council’s unpublished report.
- January 2009** • MA Representative Gloria Fox agrees to file the bill as the lead sponsor, and the bill is given the number **H 247**.
 - Additional legislators sign on as co-sponsors including Representatives: Brownsberger, Malia, O’Day, Rushing, and Scibak; and Senators: Flanagan and Michael Moore.
- February 2009** • MACHW holds 8 regional meetings for CHWs to discuss H 247 and provide advocacy training.
- March 2009** • Over 100 CHWs gather for *CHW Day at the State House* to encourage legislators to invest in CHWs.
- May 2009** • The bill is scheduled for a hearing with the Joint Committee of Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure.
 - MACHW organizes a panel of CHWs and employers to testify in support of the bill.
 - MACHW edits the bill language with the assistance of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health to be more legally appropriate.
- June 2009** • Representative St. Fleur, the Vice-Chairwoman of the Joint Committee of Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure, refiles the bill with the new legally appropriate language and the bill is given a new number, **H 4130**.
 - H 4130 is reported out favorably by its first committee.
 - Bill referred to Joint Committee on Health Care Financing, the bill’s second committee.
- July – December 2009** • MACHW, along with CHWs and supporters, met with the chairs and members of the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing to request that H 4130 be prioritized by the committee.
 - MACHW also advocated that the DPH report on CHWs be released.
- January 2010** • DPH releases the CHW Advisory Council’s report entitled “Community Health Workers in MA: Improving Health Care and Public Health.” Over 125 people attended.
 - Speakers at the report release event at the state house included Secretary of Health and Human Services Dr. JudyAnn Bigby; Department of Public Health (DPH) Commissioner John Auerbach; Chairwoman of the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing, Representative Harriett Stanley; and former Executive Director of MACHW and American Public Health Assn. CHW Section Chair Lisa Renee Holderby.
- February 2010** • MACHW holds 6 regional meetings for CHWs to discuss H 4130 and provide advocacy training.

- March 2010**
 - Over 80 CHWs gather for *CHW Day at the State House* to encourage legislators to support H4130.
 - 22 supportive organizations send a letter in support of H4130 to members of the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing.
 - Over 400 CHWs sign post cards or online in support of the bill.

- April 2010**
 - Representative Fox writes an Op-Ed about health disparities and H4130 and it is published in the Bay State Banner, South End News, and Bay Windows.
 - Joint Committee on Health Care Financing reviews H4130 and asks MACHW to consider agreeing to mandatory certification language.
 - MACHW board of directors consults with Representative Fox, CHW Initiative of Boston’s policy committee members, DPH, and other CHW leaders.
 - MACHW board of directors vote to provide the Committee with compromise language with mandatory language only for some types of CHWs.
 - The Joint Committee on Health Care Financing rejects the compromise language, and votes favorably on the bill with the language “mandatory licensure.”

- May 2010**
 - Bill is sent to next committee: House Committee On Steering, Policy and Scheduling.
 - Representative Fox files an amendment to change the word “licensure” to “certification,” with the hope to change the bill back to its original intent.
 - MACHW Board of Directors votes to continue supporting the bill to take advantage of the increasing political support and because the future Board of Certification would have CHWs on the board to ensure the certification process is inclusive for all types of CHWs.

- June 2010**
 - MACHW board members send letters to the committee urging to put H4130 on the House calendar.
 - H4130 is reported out of House Committee On Steering, Policy and Scheduling.

- July 2010**
 - MACHW organizes CHWs and supporters, including more than 26 legislators and 25 organizations, to urge legislators to support Rep Fox’s “certification” amendment to replace potential “licensure” amendment.

- August 2010**
 - House and Senate successfully pass the bill with its original intent of creating a board of certification.

- Sept. 2010**
 - Governor signs bill into law!

NEXT STEPS:

1. **Familiarize** yourself with the bill’s history and language. To view language, visit <http://machw.org/stpolicy.html> or contact Cindy Marti, Policy Director, at (617) 524-6696 x108 or cmarti@mphaweb.org.
2. **Participate** in regional dialogs to draft the blueprint of what certification could look like and its benefits.