

House Resolution 95

By: Representatives Greene of the 154th, Hawkins of the 27th, Taylor of the 173rd, Yeara of the 152nd, and Mathiak of the 82nd

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Commending community health workers; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, a community health worker is a front line public health worker who is a trusted
3 member or has an unusually close understanding of the community served; and
- 4 WHEREAS, this trusting relationship enables the worker to serve as a liaison, link, or
5 intermediary between health and social services and the community, facilitating access to
6 services, improving the quality and cultural competence of service delivery, building
7 individual and community capacity, and increasing health knowledge and self-sufficiency
8 through activities such as outreach, community education, informal counseling, social
9 support, and advocacy; and
- 10 WHEREAS, community health workers are a unique workforce recognized in 25 states with
11 a professional certification; and
- 12 WHEREAS, community health workers are a community-based workforce that builds
13 relationships and capacity for health and well-being in underserved areas; and

14 WHEREAS, community health workers are a cross-sector workforce that connects
15 community members to health care and other social services, reducing barriers to health and
16 well-being; and

17 WHEREAS, community health workers are a proven workforce with decades of research
18 documenting effectiveness in maternal and child health, chronic disease interventions,
19 immunization, oral health, HIV, primary care, and many other disciplines, with a
20 documented return on investment for numerous programs; and

21 WHEREAS, community health workers fulfill a wide range of roles, including providing
22 cultural mediation among individuals, communities, and health and social service systems;
23 offering culturally appropriate health education and information; offering care coordination,
24 case management, and system navigation; providing coaching and social support; advocating
25 for individuals and communities; building individual and community capacity; providing
26 direct service, including basic screening tests such as weight and blood pressure screening,
27 basic services such as diabetic foot checks, and meeting basic needs; implementing
28 individual and community assessments; conducting outreach; and participating in evaluation
29 and research; and

30 WHEREAS, community health worker networks are statewide, regional, or local
31 community-based organizations, including community health worker associations and
32 coalitions with leadership or membership comprised of 50 percent or more of community
33 health workers, promoters, or community health representatives, whose mission and
34 activities focus on workforce development, mentoring, member mobilization, and advocacy.

35 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
36 the members of this body commend the significant contributions made by community health

37 workers on behalf of the citizens of this state; encourage collaboration at the local and state
38 level to raise awareness of the importance of community health workers; and express support
39 for the work done by community health workers to reduce health disparities and improve
40 well-being within underserved communities.

41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
42 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
43 public and the press.