COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER CERTIFICATION PROCESS BILL

Sponsored by Sen. Luz Escamilla & Rep. Stewart Barlow (S.B. 104)

endorsed by:

Utah Public Health Association

AUCH ASSOCIATION FOR UTAH COMMUNITY HEALTH

HEALTH UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

Intermountain Healthcare

UTAH Children

United Way of Salt Lake

eliminating racism empowering women ywca Utah

COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER DEFINITION:

Community health workers (CHWs) are critical in addressing the social determinants of health as they assist community members in addressing unmet social needs, promoting resilience and healthy behaviors, and building the capacity of the community.

WHY CERTIFICATION IS IMPORTANT:

Providing a voluntary certification pathway allows community health workers to signal to employers and community members they serve that their expertise and work is recognized and valued. Through this certification pathway, employers will have an assurance of the certified community health worker's community connectedness and competencies. Additionally, certification is the first step in allowing Medicaid reimbursement, which will help both employers and community health workers in having more sustainable funding.

THIS BILL ESTABLISHES:

Voluntary Certification	CHW Certification Advisory Board
Creates a Voluntary Certification Pathway	Allows the Dept. of Health and Human Services to create a CHW Certification Advisory Board

REQUIREMENTS FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS:

- Requires every community health worker to complete a competency-based curriculum to include following core skills:
  - outreach, capacity building, individual and community assessment, coordination and navigation, interpersonal and relationship building, education and facilitation,
  - communication, and professional conduct.
- have a basic understanding of medical confidentiality requirements, such as HIPAA