



March 19, 2024

The Honorable Susan R. Donovan  
Chairwoman, House Committee Health and Human Services  
RI House of Representatives  
By Email To: [HouseHealthandHumanServices@rilegislature.gov](mailto:HouseHealthandHumanServices@rilegislature.gov)

Re: Support for H-7875 (CHW Reimbursement)

Honorable Chairwoman and Committee Members:

Progreso Latino, Inc. (PL) supports H-7875 which will ensure that community health worker services are recognized and covered by health insurance plans, reflecting their importance in managing chronic health conditions and addressing barriers to health needs.

PL is a Latino-led, community-based nonprofit organization established in 1977. Our mission is to empower Latinos and immigrants to achieve greater self-sufficiency and socioeconomic progress. We serve over 5,000 individuals annually through a range of programs, including early and adult education, immigration and social services, and youth and older adult programs, including food and emergency financial support.

Since 1980, PL has operated a community health and wellness program that utilizes Community Health Workers to assist community members in overcoming barriers and addressing social drivers of health. Our program provides health screenings, prevention education, nutrition, exercise, and chronic health self-management courses.

Our goal is to educate people about healthier lifestyles, with an emphasis on maintaining a healthy diet. Our Community Health Workers are invested in helping community members navigate the healthcare system as well as addressing social drivers of health. Most community organizations, such as ourselves, have historically assisted community members with little to no funding. This legislation will help to further support this work.

Thank you for supporting this bill which will go a long way towards assisting community members in achieving their health and wellness goals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mario Bueno", is written over a horizontal blue line.

Mario Bueno  
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