



April 8, 2025

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

Re: Support for H-6117 (CHW Reimbursement)

Honorable Chairwoman and Committee Members:

Progreso Latino, Inc. (PL) supports H-6117 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 thousands of 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 black ink, appearing to read "Mario Bueno", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Mario Bueno
Executive Director
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