



SPONSOR: Sen. Poore on behalf of all Senators & Rep. Bentz on  
behalf of all Representatives

DELAWARE STATE SENATE  
149th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 37

PRESENTING THE DELAWARE CENTER FOR HEALTH INNOVATION AND THE DELAWARE DEPARTMENT  
OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES FINDINGS AND REPORTED RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING  
COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS.

1 WHEREAS, Community Health Workers (“CHW”) have evolved as a key strategy in addressing the shortage and  
2 barriers of health care; and

3 WHEREAS, CHWs can make significant contributions to improve health outcomes by providing basic services  
4 that: (1) foster prevention and better management of chronic conditions such as diabetes, asthma, cardiovascular risk, etc.;  
5 (2) link clinical and community based services to address issues in high risk populations, leading to better compliance with  
6 prescribed regimens of care, such as medication adherence, reducing cardiovascular risk, etc.; and (3) help to lower cost by  
7 furthering the use of community based services to achieve improvements in post-hospital outcomes; and

8 WHEREAS, cultivating new entry-level jobs in the health sector, like CHWs, with livable wages and advancement  
9 opportunities can help the State achieve its economic, workforce development, and health improvement goals; and

10 WHEREAS, CHWs have the ability to be on the front line of delivering community health, while establishing  
11 strong relationships with the local community members; and

12 WHEREAS, the deployment of CHWs promises to address social determinants of health that adversely impact  
13 Delawareans health status and the cost of their care; and

14 WHEREAS, nationally, many states have adopted CHWs in an effort to create a more patient-centered approach,  
15 which accounts for cost savings throughout the healthcare system; and

16 WHEREAS, with more than 1 billion of public and private dollars invested, Delaware is committed to  
17 transforming its health care delivery system, resulting in better health outcomes, improved health care quality, enhanced  
18 provider experience, and reduced costs; and

19 WHEREAS, the Delaware Centers for Health Innovation (“DCHI”), in conjunction with the Department of Health  
20 and Social Services (“DHSS”), sought to research the positive benefits of establishing a statewide, comprehensive CHW  
21 plan; and

22 WHEREAS, DCHI’s Healthy Neighborhoods and Workforce and Education committees, in conjunction with the  
23 Delaware Division of Public Health, provided oversight and guidance to a DCHI subcommittee (“the Subcommittee”)

24 which was charged with developing recommendations to integrate CHWs into Delaware's health professional's workforce;  
25 and

26 WHEREAS, the Subcommittee established 6 recommendations, including one for addressing further  
27 considerations, that will elevate and solidify CHWs as practice in the State of Delaware; and

28 WHEREAS, these recommendations include: (1) establishing a Community Health Worker Certification Program;  
29 (2) establishing a Community Health Worker Certification Board; (3) establishing a curriculum development committee;  
30 (4) establishing 2 entry points for training of Community Health Workers; (5) developing a proper financing mechanism for  
31 CHWs; and (6) making further considerations, including using hot spots to identify neighborhoods to deploy CHWs and  
32 encouraging organizations to employ CHWs to help track health outcomes; and

33 WHEREAS, with the implementation of these recommendations and legislation forthcoming, CHWs will better  
34 coordinate with our current healthcare system and work towards total integration while driving healthcare costs down.

35 NOW, THEREFORE:

36 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the 149<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the State of Delaware, the House of  
37 Representatives concurring therein, that the Delaware Center for Health Innovation and Department of Health and Social  
38 Services joint report is presented to the 149<sup>th</sup> General Assembly.

#### SYNOPSIS

This Concurrent Resolution signifies the Delaware Center for Health Innovation and the Department of Health and Social Services' submission of the joint report pertaining to Community Health Workers.

Author: Senator Nicole Poore