

**2016 -- H 8121**

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LC005720  
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**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2016**

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**H O U S E R E S O L U T I O N**

**PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF APRIL, 2016, AS "COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS  
MONTH" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

Introduced By: Representatives Diaz, Slater, Hull, Bennett, and Barros

Date Introduced: April 28, 2016

Referred To: House read and passed

1           WHEREAS, Community Health Workers (CHWs) are professional non-clinicians who  
2 connect and advocate for disenfranchised and medically underserved populations to the health  
3 and social service systems, while making health services more culturally and linguistically  
4 appropriate; and

5           WHEREAS, By serving in a unique role, Community Health Workers strive to improve  
6 access to health care, advance health equity and self-sufficiency, and help to eliminate health care  
7 disparities based on race, ethnicity, gender, and class, in underserved communities; and

8           WHEREAS, Community Health Workers provide direct services, including informal  
9 counseling and social support, and advocate for individual and community needs; and

10          WHEREAS, Workforce diversity is a critical step in achieving health equity given that  
11 communities with high minority population experience a disproportionate burden of poor health,  
12 and increasing the workforce diversity is vital to eliminating health disparities; and

13          WHEREAS, The month of April is celebrated as Minority Health Month in order to  
14 recognize that the Community Health Worker workforce has the ability to diversify the health  
15 workforce as many are members of underserved communities in Rhode Island; now, therefore be  
16 it

17          RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and  
18 Providence Plantations hereby recognizes the Community Health Worker workforce as an  
19 apprenticeable profession as has the state's Department of Labor and Training, and the

1 Department of Health; and be it further

2           RESOLVED, That this House hereby proclaims April, 2016, as "Community Health  
3 Workers Month" in the state. We moreover thank Rhode Island's Community Health Workers  
4 (CHWs) for the important contributions they make towards improving the quality of life for the  
5 citizens of Rhode Island; and be it further

6           RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
7 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Dannie Ritchie, MD, MPH, Clinical Assistant  
8 Professor Family Medicine, Brown University.

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