

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Twin Cities Campus

Robert J. Jones Urban Research and Outreach-Engagement Center

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March 8, 2022

Dear **Representative/Senator NAME**

On behalf of the University of Minnesota Robert J. Jones Urban Research and Outreach-Engagement Center (UROC) I am writing to you to express our support for the Community Health Worker (CHW) line item in the Governor's Supplemental Budget to educate, strengthen, equip, evaluate and grow the CHW Workforce.

CHWs are the health equity workforce. Many CHWs represent BIPOC communities. They come from the communities they serve, providing the link to coverage and care, and are an investment in those communities. Research indicates that CHWs show a return on investment of at least three dollars for every dollar invested in them. They serve as liaisons between health care, social service systems, and communities. They also work in other systems such as public safety, public schools, childcare, elder services and many more.

UROC's Research Agenda focuses on Community Healing and Wholeness, Systems and Systemic Racism, and Individual, Family, and Community Financial Wellbeing. All of these priorities, co-identified by the University and our communities, benefit from the connective tissue provided by CHW's. Wrap-around services and creating an ecosystem of support for individuals, families and communities is essential to our mission of vital public partnership with urban communities to advance learning, improve quality of life, and discover breakthrough solutions to critical problems. CHW's are vital to a thriving community and all of the programs and projects that support our communities.

CHWs' work is trauma-informed and they are uniquely positioned to improve health outcomes and health equity within our state. This funding will lead to increased healthcare access, lower healthcare costs and improved health outcomes for your constituents facing health inequities and barriers to care. Additionally, this bill will further support and grow the CHW workforce.

UROC respectfully urges you to support the funding for CHWS in the Governor's Budget. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Makeda Zulu

Executive Director

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