



May 12, 2026

Chair Abney  
House Finance Committee  
Rhode Island State House  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

**Re: Support of H8211**

Dear Chairman and members of the Committee,

My name is Marie Palumbo-Hayes, LICSW, the Chief of Community Health at Family Service of Rhode Island, a health and human service organization with the mission “to advance opportunity and hope in our communities.” In my role, I oversee a variety of programs for infants, children, youth, adults and families that include critical services provided by Certified Community Health Workers.

I write today in strong support of Representative Kislak’s bill - H8211 - and encourage you to ensure that Rhode Island adequately funds this statewide Community Health Worker initiative by approving a ten-million-dollar investment that would allow Community Health Workers to provide a variety of interventions throughout the whole state of Rhode Island. This investment allows the current Community Health Worker workforce to increase and make a positive impact statewide on a much larger scale.

Sincerely,

*Marie Palumbo-Hayes, LICSW*

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Chief of Community Health  
Family Service of Rhode Island