

## Steven Sepe

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**From:** Deborah Doran <DeborahDo@thundermisthealth.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 9, 2025 11:26 AM  
**To:** House Health and Human Services Committee  
**Cc:** Rep. Chippendale, Michael W.  
**Subject:** Community Health Worker Bill H6117

To: HSS Committee  
From: Deborah A Doran, LICSW  
4/9/2025

Thank you for taking the time to read this email. I am writing in support of Bill h6117 that would require commercial insurers to reimburse for CHW services.

I have been a social worker in Rhode Island for 24 years, the past 11 in community health at Thundermist Health Center. I have worked alongside community health workers here at Thundermist and have seen first-hand the essential work they do in supporting our patients in the community by removing barriers to care.

3 years ago I had the privilege of being part of a collaboration with the Narragansett School System to provide telehealth services to the students during the school day. I oversee that program and work as clinician with our patients as well. This program has allowed students who might not have been able to gain access to services, to be connected with behavioral health via a community health worker. The only way we have been able to provide these services is via grant funding. If our community health workers were able to bill with private insurance for their time coordinating care we would be able to expand these programs and ultimately provide better clinical outcomes for our patients.

The work CHW's is essential and a multi-payer approach is needed in Rhode Island.

Thank you for your consideration,

Deborah A Doran, LICSW  
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