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Testimony of Elena Padin

IN SUPPORT OF \*Proposed S.B. No. 126 AN ACT CONCERNING COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS  
Before the Public Health Committee  
Friday, February 10, 2017

I am an Outreach Worker for a Federal Qualified Health Care center and I am also the Secretary of the Community Health Workers Association of CT (CHWACT).

Established in 2015 and as a section of the Connecticut Public Health Association in 2016, the CHWACT's mission is to advance the CHW workforce through policy, education, research and leadership.

As you will notice, I am fully vested in support of CHWs, it is my job right. But it's more than that; my role as an Outreach Worker falls under the category of CHWs. With recognition of our Legislators for CHWs it validates the role and responsibility as a member of a health care team.

CHW are known to be trustworthy member of their community, liaisons, a resource, they are health professionals in several other fields, they are patient navigator, care takers, advocates for families, volunteers, etc. Yet it's not enough! It is why I feel it is important to define the roles and responsibility of CHWs in the state.

Governor Jodi Rell on April 7, 2010 signed an Official Statement recognizing CHWs for their important contributions as CHWs to improving an individuals, a families, and community's quality of life. It is important to me because it will allow our Board not only to execute CHWACT's mission, but to promote with passion to everyone entering the field of Community Health Workers who you are, your role and responsibility because without it you cannot forge forward and expect to meet the challenges of the community.

Thank you for your time and consideration to support SB No.126 and the advancement of the Community Health Workers Association of CT's mission.