WHEREAS, Community Health Workers (CHWs) are professional non-clinicians who
check the pulse of the community and are an integral link that connects disenfranchised and
medically underserved populations to the health and social service systems, while making health
services more culturally and linguistically appropriate; and

WHEREAS, By serving in a unique role, Community Health Workers work to improve
access to health care, advance health equity, and help to eliminate health care disparities based on
race, ethnicity, gender, and class in underserved communities; and

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

WHEREAS, Increasing workforce diversity is a critical step in achieving health equity.
Given that communities with high minority populations experience a disproportionate burden of
their health, increasing the workforce diversity is vital to eliminating health disparities; now,
therefore be it

RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
Providence Plantations hereby joins the Department of Labor and Training in recognizing the
Community Health Worker workforce as an Apprenticeable Profession; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this House hereby declares that it is fitting for the month of April,
which is Minority Health Month, to note the role that Community Health Workers have had in
improving the diversity of the health workforce in order to provide better access to underserved
communities in Rhode Island, and to celebrate April of 2015, as "Community Health Workers Month" in the state of Rhode Island. We moreover thank Rhode Island’s Community Health Workers (CHWs) for the important contributions they make towards improving the quality of life for the citizens of Rhode Island; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Community Health Worker Association of Rhode Island.

==============
LC002244
==============