



H.R. 8629 Developing the Community Health Workforce Act



ADVOCATES FOR
COMMUNITY
HEALTH

Strengthening the workforce, expanding access, and improving health outcomes.

ACTIVE LEGISLATION



INTRODUCED
April 30, 2026



HOUSE
Growing
co-sponsors



SENATE COMPANION
TBD



COMMITTEE REFERRAL
Energy & Commerce
Ways & Means

WHAT THIS BILL DOES

The Developing the Community Health Workforce Act strengthens and expands the community health center workforce by providing funding, flexibility, and policy tools to recruit, train, and retain health center staff, especially in rural and underserved communities.



Community health centers (CHCs) serve nearly 34 million patients nationwide, yet workforce shortages threaten access to care, especially in rural and underserved communities.

WHY IT MATTERS



All communities need a strong CHC workforce to ensure timely, accessible, and high-quality care



Investing in local talent builds a sustainable healthcare pipeline that strengthens communities for the long-term with job creation, greater efficiency, and better patient outcomes.

HOW THE BILL WORKS

1. Support Grow-Your-Own Workforce Development:

Reduce the burden for external recruitment and shift to local development by integrating CHCs into federal apprenticeship programs and supporting partnerships with local community colleges. This enables hiring from within, creating more local jobs, and ensuring longer-term stability for patients.

2. Enhance Local Workforce Flexibility:

Establishing new loan repayment & scholarship

H.R. 8629 creates a sustainable healthcare workforce pipeline, offering:

- **Priority for Rural & Underserved Communities:** The bill prioritizes National Health Service Corps assignment applications associated with health centers and rural health clinics.
- **Local Workforce Loan Repayment & Grant Funding:** Through new grants and loan repayment options, CHCs can better recruit, retain, and train needed providers.
- **Expand Clinical Capacity:** Partnerships between hospitals and CHCs will support training of more medical residents in community-based settings by allowing qualifying hospitals to expand their resident training capacity.
- **Enhanced Team-Based Care:** The bill authorizes reimbursement for behavioral health, peer support, and case management services under Medicare & Medicaid, expanding access to integrated, team-based care.

program grant opportunities gives health centers additional tools to address regional workforce shortages and staffing challenges.

3. Increase Integration & Sustainability:

Providers need to focus on care, not paperwork. By authorizing reimbursement for behavioral health practitioners, case managers and other specialists, staff can work at the top of their license, reducing provider burnout and improving care for rural and underserved populations.

OUR ASK:

Please cosponsor H.R. 8629, the Developing the Community Health Workforce Act, to help address workforce challenges and expand access to care in rural and underserved communities.