

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

GREG GIANFORTE
GOVERNOR



KRISTEN JURAS
LT. GOVERNOR

May 16, 2025

The Honorable Brandon Ler
Speaker of the House
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59620

The Honorable Matt Regier
President of the Senate
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Speaker Ler and President Regier:

For the last four years, we have worked together to repeal, roll back, and reform unnecessary, burdensome regulations, while still protecting consumer safety and public health. Key to these efforts has been an overhaul of Montana's occupational licensing system to reduce barriers to opportunities for hardworking Montanans and to promote competition in the marketplace, both of which fuel our growing economy. Together, we have made great strides in our shared effort.

House Bill 850 provides for the licensing and regulation of a community health worker (CHW), which is defined as "a frontline public health worker who lives in or is trusted by the community and who provides outreach, maternity support, service navigation, coaching and social support, direct services, cultural mediation, capacity building, education, advocacy, and informal counseling."

In Montana, the purpose of state licensing is to protect public health and safety. While I recognize the important role of community health workers, a compelling public health or safety interest for their state licensure does not exist.

Furthermore, the University of Montana offers a free online training program for community health workers, and Montana State University offers a CHW certification program. These university training programs provide participants with tangible means to demonstrate their training and qualifications to potential employers and consumers. Finally, these existing programs are a more appropriate and less burdensome pathway for individuals to pursue a career as a community health worker.

Therefore, in accordance with the power vested in me as Governor by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Montana, I hereby veto House Bill 850: "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR LICENSING AND REGULATION OF COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS; PROVIDING A PURPOSE; ESTABLISHING LICENSING REQUIREMENTS; PROVIDING RULEMAKING AUTHORITY; PROVIDING DEFINITIONS; PROVIDING FOR REIMBURSEMENT AUTHORITY BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES FOR SERVICES PROVIDED BY COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS; PROVIDING FOR LICENSE FEES; AND AMENDING SECTION 37-1401, MCA."

Sincerely,



Greg Gianforte
Governor

Enclosure

cc: Legislative Services Division
Christi Jacobsen, Secretary of State