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SECOND SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2436

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State of Washington                      65th Legislature                      2018 Regular Session

By House Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives  
Robinson, Riccelli, Pollet, Ormsby, and Santos)

READ FIRST TIME 02/06/18.

1            AN ACT Relating to defining community health workers and their  
2 roles; adding a new section to chapter 43.70 RCW; and creating a new  
3 section.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that:

6            (a) The community health worker task force was convened by the  
7 healthier Washington initiative in 2015 to develop policy and system  
8 change recommendations related to the community health worker  
9 workforce. The task force considered the continuum of community  
10 health workers, from volunteers, to generalists who support the  
11 health and well-being of individuals and communities, to those who  
12 work in specialized roles.

13            (b) The task force issued a report with recommendations related  
14 to: The definition, roles, skills, and qualities of community health  
15 workers; community health worker training and education; and finance  
16 related matters.

17            (c) The nine accountable communities of health across the state  
18 as part of the medicaid transformation demonstration are all pursuing  
19 projects that incorporate community health workers, in addition to  
20 many other programs utilizing community health workers across the  
21 state.

1           (2) Therefore the legislature intends to create consistency  
2 across the state by defining community health workers and their roles  
3 as recommended by the task force's report.

4           NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 2.**   A new section is added to chapter 43.70  
5 RCW to read as follows:

6           (1) A "community health worker" means a frontline public health  
7 worker who is a trusted member of or who has a uniquely close  
8 understanding of the community served. This trusting relationship  
9 enables the worker to serve as a liaison, link, or intermediary  
10 between health and social services and the community to facilitate  
11 access to services and improve the quality and cultural competence of  
12 service delivery.

13           (2) A "frontline public health worker" means someone who works to  
14 improve community health or the health of populations.

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