

LFC Requestor: LIU, Sunny

2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION  
AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS

Section I: General

Chamber: House

Category: Bill

Number: 556

Type: Introduced

Date (of THIS analysis): February 21, 2025

Sponsor(s): Rebecca Dow and Gail Armstrong

Short Title: "Instructional Support Provider" Definitions

Reviewing Agency: Agency 665 - Department of Health

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Section II: Fiscal Impact

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation Contained		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY 25	FY 26		
\$0	\$0	N/A	N/A

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY 25	FY 26	FY 27		
\$0	\$0	\$0	N/A	N/A

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY 25	FY 26	FY 27	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-recurring	Fund Affected
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	N/A	N/A

### Section III: Relationship to other legislation

Duplicates: None

Conflicts with: None

Companion to: None

Relates to: None

Duplicates/Relates to an Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act: None

### Section IV: Narrative

#### 1. BILL SUMMARY

a) Synopsis

House Bill 556 (HB556) would amend the School Personnel Act to include community health workers (CHWs) as instructional support providers.

Is this an amendment or substitution?  Yes  No

Is there an emergency clause?  Yes  No

b) Significant Issues

While schools represent key venues for supporting health, they continue to experience gaps in health resources. The integration of community health workers (CHWs) into schools has the potential to supplement these resources ([Community health workers' perspectives on integrating into school settings to support student health - PMC](#))

To address the deficiencies in school health services, the integration of community health workers (CHWs) into school settings can support student health and foster a culture of health within school communities ([Community Health Workers in Schools: A Systematic Review - PubMed](#)). Community members and/or individuals who possess a thorough understanding of the community can become CHWs who serve as culturally competent liaisons between health and social services and the community ([Workers' Compensation reform policy - PubMed](#)), supporting education, counseling, navigation, and advocacy ([Role of Community Health Workers, NHLBI, NIH](#)).

Various responsibilities that school-based CHWs can perform include: strengthening health promotion in schools, including educating school communities about health, addressing the social determinants of health affecting students and families, supporting chronic disease management among students (including providing navigation support for access to behavioral health or primary care), supporting school staff, and building trusting relationships ([Community health workers' perspectives on integrating into school settings to support student health - PMC](#)) Along with supporting students and families, CHWs can support school staff including nurses and teachers. For school nurses, CHWs can assist

with responsibilities that do not require licensing (e.g., administrative work). Supporting school nurses can involve fostering communication, tracking student health data, and reviewing medication management plans with students. Additionally, CHWs can support teachers by visiting classrooms and monitoring students for health emergencies. For students with chronic health conditions, CHWs could educate teachers about supporting these students and responding to health emergencies. ([Community health workers' perspectives on integrating into school settings to support student health - PMC](#))

## 2. PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

- Does this bill impact the current delivery of NMDOH services or operations?  
 Yes  No
- Is this proposal related to the NMDOH Strategic Plan?  Yes  No
  - Goal 1:** We expand equitable access to services for all New Mexicans
  - Goal 2:** We ensure safety in New Mexico healthcare environments
  - Goal 3:** We improve health status for all New Mexicans
  - Goal 4:** We support each other by promoting an environment of mutual respect, trust, open communication, and needed resources for staff to serve New Mexicans and to grow and reach their professional goals

## 3. FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

- If there is an appropriation, is it included in the Executive Budget Request?  
 Yes  No  N/A
- If there is an appropriation, is it included in the LFC Budget Request?  
 Yes  No  N/A
- Does this bill have a fiscal impact on NMDOH?  Yes  No

## 4. ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Will this bill have an administrative impact on NMDOH?  Yes  No

## 5. DUPLICATION, CONFLICT, COMPANIONSHIP OR RELATIONSHIP

None

## 6. TECHNICAL ISSUES

Are there technical issues with the bill?  Yes  No

## 7. LEGAL/REGULATORY ISSUES (OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES)

- Will administrative rules need to be updated or new rules written?  Yes  No
- Have there been changes in federal/state/local laws and regulations that make this legislation necessary (or unnecessary)?  Yes  No
- Does this bill conflict with federal grant requirements or associated regulations?  
 Yes  No

- Are there any legal problems or conflicts with existing laws, regulations, policies, or programs?  Yes  No

## **8. DISPARITIES ISSUES**

Childhood chronic conditions have become more prevalent within the past five decades. Youth who identify as non-Hispanic Black or Hispanic, or are from low socioeconomic backgrounds, are at greater risk for developing chronic health conditions and experiencing greater morbidity. Community Health Workers come from the communities and populations they serve, often speaking their native languages as well. As trusted partners in the communities they can help reduce disparities and promote health in various ways including educating school communities about health, addressing social determinants of health affecting students and families, supporting chronic disease management among students, supporting school staff, and building trusting relationships.

## **9. HEALTH IMPACT(S)**

Along with negative health outcomes, children with chronic illnesses are more likely to have lower educational achievement as compared to those without them. Further, childhood chronic conditions are associated with increased morbidity and mortality in adulthood. Thus, it is essential for children with chronic illnesses to have access to healthcare, especially for vulnerable groups ([Community health workers' perspectives on integrating into school settings to support student health - PMC](#))

## **10. ALTERNATIVES**

None

## **11. WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL?**

If HB556 is not enacted community health workers will not be added as instruction support providers.

## **12. AMENDMENTS**

None