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Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 513

Introduced by **Hon. Arthur "Dodo" Y. Pingoy, Jr., M.D.**

Explanatory Note

Service in the countryside, especially in the remote areas, is a serious commitment taken by those who are willing to sacrifice financial gains and even endure myriad hardships because of the multi-faceted challenges and tasks it entails.

Many health workers take on this challenge, and at the forefront of this class of public servants are the barangay health workers who brave not only the remote barangays, traversing inaccessible roads, mountainous terrains and even sea routes, but also areas continuously ravaged by wars between government forces and rebel groups.

Despite such perils and challenges and with only a meager allowance as a support for their services, they continue to take and discharge their tasks with unwavering dedication, unmistakably exhibiting the ideal qualities of a government employee as embodied in the constitutional exhortation that public servants must "serve the people with utmost responsibility, integrity, loyalty and efficiency, act with patriotism and justice and lead modest lives".

In recognition of their invaluable service and as a response to their clamor for a more substantial support from the government, Congress enacted a law entitled **An Act Granting Benefits and Incentives to Accredited Barangay Health Workers and For Other Purposes** on February 20, 1995. The said law contained a package of incentives and benefits which range from hazard allowance to subsistence allowance, training, education and career enhancement programs and free legal services.

To this date, however, this law remains as one of the many unfunded laws and has not, in any way, alleviated the living conditions of the health workers because of non-implementation due to funding constraints. Consultations with the barangay health workers in Mindanao as well as situationers from other parts of the archipelago clearly reveal that they are the poorest among public servants, along with barangay tanods and volunteers.

Thus, this proposed measure is filed to carry out a "doable" and "workable" benefit program for their economic amelioration especially at these times of worsening impoverishment and continued economic slump.

Again, may it be stressed that our barangay health workers have lived up to the very essence of selfless servitude to our nation. Such a noble commitment to the ideals of public service does not only deserve recognition but also a just and equitable support for their occupation. Their invaluable sacrifices for the welfare of the citizenry must no longer be trivialized nor ignored by government's lackluster and lethargic implementation of existing policies for their benefit or by our continued acquiescence of deficient or inadequate programs to improve their standards of living.

Verily, the passage of this bill will boost their morale, contribute in granting what is due them and will ultimately encourage others to join their laudable crusade and service.

Arthur "Dodo" Y. Pingoy, Jr., M.D.

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWELFTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 513

Introduced by **Hon. Arthur "Dodo" Y. Pingoy, Jr., M.D.**

AN ACT
GRANTING COMPULSORY COVERAGE TO ACCREDITED BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS IN THE NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7883 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1.--Section 6 of Republic Act No. 7883 is hereby amended which shall read as follows:

> g) ***PHILHEALTH Compulsory Coverage*--All barangay health workers and their dependents shall be enrolled in the National Health Insurance Program for them to receive and avail of an adequate package of personal health services that must include in-patient hospital care, out-patient care, emergency and transfer services, and also other supplementary health benefits as may be defined by the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PHIC) and the local government unit (LGU) where they render services.**
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> **The needed premium contributions and thereafter, the standard monthly contributions, shall be borne equally by the national government and the LGU concerned, such that upon the passage of this Act, the barangay health workers and their dependents are automatically entitled to the full enjoyment and availment of essential health services as contained in the National Health Insurance Act (R.A. 7875). Such cost-sharing scheme may be revised which may be made contingent on the LGU's financial capability to shoulder the overall cost of this program: *Provided* that national government's share will not exceed fifty percent (50%) of the needed cost.**
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> **The barangay health workers shall not be required to pay monthly contributions and all other fees or charges for them to be entitled with the program's benefits.**

SEC. 2. ***Oversight Provision.***--Congress shall conduct a regular review of this program which shall primarily evaluate its implementation with regard to its impact and accomplishments. Such review shall be jointly undertaken by the committees in the Senate and House of Representatives which have legislative jurisdiction over this program.

SEC. 3. ***Government Guarantee.***--The Government of the Republic of the Philippines guarantees the financial viability of this program.

SEC. 4. ***Rules and Regulations.***--The Department of Health, Philippine Health Insurance Corporation and Department of Interior & Local Government, in coordination with the Governors, Vice-Governors and Mayors Leagues of the Philippines shall formulate within one hundred (100) days the necessary rules and regulations necessary to implement this Act.

SEC. 5. ***Separability Clause.***--If any provision of this Act is declared invalid, the remainder or any of this provision hereof not affected thereby shall remain in force and effect.

SEC. 6. ***Repealing Clause.***--All laws, decrees, executive orders, presidential issuances and other administrative rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 7. ***Effectivity.***--This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,