

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2122

Introduced By Reps. SATUR C. OCAMPO, TEODORO A. CASIÑO, JOEL G. VIRADOR, CRISPIN B. BELTRAN, RAFAEL V. MARIANO, LIZA L. MAZA, ABRAHAM B. MITRA, LORENZO R. TAÑADA III, REYNALDO S. UY M.D., NERISSA SOON RUIZ, ANNA YORK P. BONDOC M.D., ARTHUR Y. PINGOY JR., TRANQUILINO B. CARMONA, EMILIO C. MACIAS II M.D., ANTONIO P. YAPHA JR. M.D., CORAZON N. MALANYAON, SIMEON A. DATUMANÓNG, CONSTANTINO G. JARAYALA, BENASING MACARAMBON JR., ORLANDO FUA JR., ELADIO M. JALA, ANTONIO V. CUENCO, EDGAR T. ESPINOSA, CARMEN L. CARI, REMEDIOS L. PETILLA, HERMINIO G. TEVES, EDUARDO R. GULLAS, TRINIDAD "EBBIE" G. APOSTOL, GERARDO J. ESPINA JR., ALFREDO D. MARAÑON, ERICO BASILIO A. FABIAN, TEOFISTO GUINGONA III, BENJAMIN C. AGARAO JR., PROCESO J. ALCALA, EDCEL C. LAGMAN, AGAPITO A. AQUINO, NEREUS O. ACOSTA JR., ANNA THERESA H. BARAQUEL, MARIO J. AGUJA, JESUS C. REMULLA, EUFROCINO M. CODILLA, ROMUALDO T. VICENCIO, JUAN EDGARDO "SONNY" ANGARA, EMILY U. TALIÑO-SANTOS, BAI SENDIG G. DILANGALEN, FLORENCIO G. NOEL, ROSELLER L. BARINAGA, MA. ANGELICA R.M. AMANTE, EDUARDO Z. ZIALCITA, MANUEL E. ZAMORA, PROSPERO S. AMATONG, DOUGLAS RA. CAGAS, ALIPINIO V. BADELLES, LEOVIGILDO B. BANAAG, GLENDA B. ECLEO, JOSE G. SOLIS, GERRY A. SALAPUDDIN, RODOLFO G. PLAZA

Explanatory Note

Seventeen years ago, on April 14, 1987, former President Corazon Aquino issued Proclamation No. 96 declaring May 7 of that year and every year thereafter as "Health Workers' Day." However, its commemoration has since faded into oblivion, and along with it, the subject of its celebration.

This bill seeks to officially reestablish "Health Workers' Day" on May 7 of every year to give due recognition and draw much needed attention to the plight of those who serve as the main pillars of the health care system in our country – the health workers.

They are our doctors, nurses, midwives, dentists, technicians, nutritionists, therapists, aides, and all other medical and allied professionals and support services personnel who toil anonymously yet devotedly in hospitals, clinics, barangay health centers and units in rural and urban areas.

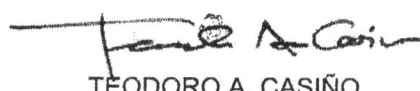
Despite the passage on March 26, 1992 of Republic Act 7305 – the Magna Carta of Public Health Workers – its declared objective "to promote and improve the social and economic well-being of the health workers, their living and working conditions and terms of employment" remains far from being realized.

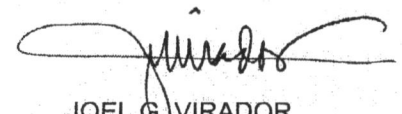
Today, most health workers in both the public and private sectors suffer a common lot: meager salaries, nonpayment of benefits, unreasonably long working hours, increased workload without corresponding compensation, dismal and unsafe working conditions, insecurity of tenure, suppression of the right to organize and to participate in the formulation of policies. Another burden has been the falling national budget priority for health which has translated into deteriorating government health services.

The annual public observance of "Health Workers' Day" will give due recognition to the important role and contributions of the overworked and underpaid health workers who provide vital health services and assert as well their rights and welfare and sense of worth and dignity. It will also underscore the State's responsibility to provide the necessary salary increases and benefits for them and to spend for the health services much needed by the people.

Immediate passage of this bill is thus earnestly sought.


SATUR C. OCAMPO
Bayan Muna, Party-List


TEODORO A. CASIÑO
Bayan Muna, Party-List


JOEL G. VIRADOR
Bayan Muna, Party-List

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**AN ACT DECLARING MAY 7 OF EVERY YEAR
AS "HEALTH WORKERS' DAY"**

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

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the "Health Workers' Day Act."

SECTION 2. In order to give due recognition to the important role and contributions of the health workers who provide vital health services to our people and to promote their rights and welfare and enhance their sense of worth and dignity, May 7 of every year is hereby declared as a special working holiday to be known as "Health Workers' Day."

SECTION 3. The term "health workers" covers all persons engaged in health and health-related services, including medical and allied professionals and support services personnel, who work in hospitals, sanitaria, health centers, clinics and other health-related establishments in the public and private sectors.

SECTION 4. To ensure the meaningful observance of the holiday as herein declared, all heads of government health facilities, offices and instrumentalities, including government-owned and controlled hospitals as well as local government health units, and employers in the private sector, shall encourage and afford sufficient time and opportunities for their employees to engage and participate in any activity to mark Health Workers' Day.

SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,