

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila



Thirteenth Congress
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 2441

Introduced by Honorable Catalino V. Figueroa

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill aims to address the plight of the Barangay Health Workers (BHWs) by granting them a fixed honoraria on a monthly basis, provide a minimum allowable amount for subsistence allowance and an insurance coverage from the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) or any accredited insurance company.

In recognition of the crucial service rendered by the Barangay Health Workers to the public, Congress passed on 02 February 1995 Republic Act No. 7883 otherwise known as the "Barangay Health Workers Benefits And Incentives". The said law however failed to grant fixed compensation to the BHWs but simply entitling them to hazard and subsistence allowance. Worst, the said benefits is still subject to the approval of the local government unit concerned.

Barangay Health Workers, not only worked hard to prevent war against diseases but also helped the public to fight malnutrition and cure traditional health practices. The Department of Health (DOH), in its recent study, revealed the importance of the BHWs in as much as majority of the public are suffering from high incidence of heart disease, hypertension and malnutrition not to mention the prevalent lack of medical attention to mothers and women of reproductive age.

Furthermore, statistics show that around 198,000 of BHWs attends to the medical needs of the public especially the poor who have no access to quality, affordable and relevant health care. They safeguard the government's primary health care program and sustain our disease prevention program in the barangay level. These and other services being rendered by our BHWs with empty stomach because of the very low priority and the minimal support by the local government units adding to the strong feeling of demoralization in their ranks.

In as much as this bill attempts to correct an obvious oversight on the part of the Congress, the immediate approval thereof is recommended.


CATALINO V. FIGUEROA

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**AN ACT
GRANTING HONORARIA AND OTHER BENEFITS TO ALL ACCREDITED
BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE R.A.
7883, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS
INCENTIVES AND BENEFITS ACT”**

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

SECTION 1. *Amendment.* Section 6 of Republic Act No. 7883 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Section 6. Incentives and Benefits. In recognition of their services, all accredited barangay health workers who are actively and regularly performing their duties shall be entitled to the following incentives and benefits:

- a) HONORARIA – ALL ACCREDITED BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS SHALL BE ENTITLED TO A MONTHLY HONORARIA OF TWO THOUSAND PESOS (P2,000.00);
- b) Subsistence Allowance – Barangay Health Workers who render services within the premises of isolated barangay health stations in order to make their services available at any and all times shall be entitled to a monthly subsistence allowance, which shall be computed in accordance with the prevailing circumstances as determined by the local government unit concerned BUT IN NO CASE LESS THAN ONE THOUSAND (P1,000.00) PESOS;
- c) INSURANCE COVERAGE – ALL BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS ARE GRANTED INSURANCE COVERAGE BY THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM OR ANY ACCREDITED INSURANCE COMPANY IN AN AMOUNT NOT LESS THAN TEN THOUSAND (P10,000.00) PESOS;
- d) Hazard Allowance...”

SECTION 2. *Rules and Regulations.* The Department of Health (DOH), the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), and the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) shall formulate the rules and regulations as maybe necessary for the effective implementation of this Act within 90 days from its effectivity.

SECTION 3. *Appropriations.* The amount necessary to implement the provisions of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act of the year following of the effectivity of this Act and every year thereafter.

SECTION 4. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,