

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

H. No. **5765**



Introduced By Representative Teofisto "TG" Guingona III

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Among the aims of R.A. 7305, otherwise known as the Magna Carta of Public Health Workers, are the following:

"(a) to promote and improve the social and economic well-being of the health workers, their living and working conditions and terms of employment;

"(c) to encourage those with proper qualifications and excellent abilities to join and remain in government service."

The barangay health workers (BHWs), who voluntarily render primarily health care services in the community, are among those covered by the aforementioned aims of RA 7305. But unlike other health workers, BHWs do not receive a regular salary. They survive on certain allowances and benefits that may be extended to them by the government subject of course to availability of funds.

Being in the frontline government service in the urban and in the most remote rural communities, the critical contribution of the more than 200,000 BHWs in the delivery of health services is indubitable. Giving them monthly salaries would have been ideal and well deserved. Cognizant, however, of the country's financial condition, this representation takes the second best alternative for now -- to give them additional non-monetary benefits to be called "welfare extenders", thereby amending R.A. 7883, otherwise known as the "Barangay Health Workers' Benefits and Incentives Act of 1995."

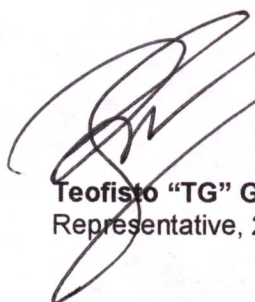
The welfare-extendors that this bill seeks to grant the BHWs are the following:

- 1) Exemption from paying tuition and matriculation fees for their children attending state colleges and universities;
- 2) Price discount of twenty-five (25%) of the price per kilo of rice and/ or corn bought directly from the National Food Authority (NFA) or its authorized agents or market outlets;
- 3) Loan interest rates lower by at least three percent (3%) than that normally charged by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) in any loan obtained from the said institution; and

- 4) Preference in securing educational loans for their children, who are enrolled in private institutions, from the Study Now, Pay Later Plan instituted by Republic Act Nos. 6014 and 6728.

These welfare extenders will not cost the government anything. At most, they will result to a very insignificant dent in the revenues of affected government-owned and controlled corporations and state universities and colleges. But these can mean so much in promoting the social and economic well-being of BHWs, and encourage those with the right heart and proper qualifications to join and remain in the delivery of the needed health services to our people. Most importantly, these little welfare extenders, are concrete indicators that we recognize their efforts and respect their role and place in nation building.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



Teofisto "TG" Guingona III
Representative, 2nd District of Bukidnon

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AN ACT PROVIDING "WELFARE EXTENDERS"
TO BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS, THEREBY AMENDING R.A. 7883,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS' BENEFITS AND
INCENTIVES ACT OF 1995", AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

Section 1. Short Title. — This act shall be known as the "Welfare Extenders (WE)
Act for BHWs of 2006."

Section 2. Deletion and addition of subsections in section 6. --- Section 6B
(3), which says: "scholarships benefits in the form of tuition fees in state colleges to
be granted to one child of every barangay health worker who will not be able to take
advantage of the above programs." is hereby deleted, and a subsection F is added to
Section 6 of RA 7883, to read as follows:

" f). *Welfare Extenders.* — Barangay health workers in the active service
shall enjoy the following welfare extenders:

- 1) Exemption from paying tuition and matriculation fees for their
children attending state colleges and universities;
- 2) Price discount of twenty-five (25%) of the price per kilo of rice
and/ or corn bought directly from the National Food Authority
(NFA) or its authorized agents or market outlets;
- 3) Loan interest rates lower by at least three percent (3%) than that
normally charged by the Government Service Insurance System
(GSIS) in any loan obtained from the said institution; and
- 4) Preference in securing educational loans for their children, who
are enrolled in private institutions, from the Study Now, Pay Later
Plan instituted by Republic Act Nos. 6014 and 6728."

Section 3. Additional sections. --- Two new sections are being added in
support of section 6F, are as follows:

"Section 7. *Availing of Welfare Extenders.* -- The presentation by the
barangay health worker of his or her identification card to the person or

office concerned shall be sufficient and the latter shall provide the extenders availed of.

"Section 8. *Liabilities.* -- Any person who refuses or fails to grant any of the extenders provided for in Section 6f hereof for which he or she is bound to give under this Act shall, upon conviction, pay a fine of not less than Two Thousand Pesos (2,000.00) nor more than Seven Thousand Pesos (P7,000.00) and, in addition to moral, nominal, temperate, liquidated and/ or exemplary damages that may be adjudicated by the court, shall also pay actual or compensatory damage equivalent to at least three times the pecuniary loss suffered by the aggrieved barangay health worker.

The same liabilities shall be imposed upon the President or appropriate officer of an agency or office which fails or refuses to grant the extenders provided under this Act for which the said agency or office is bound to give."

Section 4. Rules and Regulations. --- The Department of Health (DOH) in consultation with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), National Food Authority (NFA), Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) and other government agencies that the DOH may deem proper to consult, shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act within two (2) months from the effectivity thereof.

Section 5. Compliance Report. --- Within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act and every first week of August thereafter, the DOH, CHED, NFA and GSIS and other agencies concerned shall submit a report to both houses of Congress on their compliance with this Act.

Section 6. Separability Clause. -- If any provision of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional, no other provision hereof shall be affected thereby.

Section 7. Repealing Clause. -- All Acts, Decrees, or Laws inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed and/ or modified accordingly.

Section 8. Effectivity. -- This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after the date of its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,