

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS)
OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Bill No. 150

Introduced by Representative Ben P. Evardone

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Barangay Health Workers (BHWs) are those persons accredited by the Department of Health (DOH) to render basic healthcare services, especially in grassroots, after having undergone health training programs under government agencies and accredited non-government organizations. These BHWs are highly respected as they do all of these work voluntarily, that means without monetary remunerations except for very minimal allowances. Also, they are normally those who reach the farthest corners of their barangay to offer health assistance to the poorest residents in their locale.

What is ironic about their job is that they are in the forefront of delivering health services to the communities yet they themselves are not covered by the National Health Insurance Program.

This bill seeks to grant compulsory coverage to accredited BHWs in the National Health Insurance Program. If enacted, this bill shall amend Republic Act No. 7883, also known as the Barangay Health Workers' Benefits and Incentives Act of 1995, to add to Section 6 (Incentives and Benefits) PhilHealth coverage of all accredited BHWs and their dependents.

It is also provided that the BHWs shall not be required to pay monthly contributions and such other fees to avail of the program's benefits. The needed premium contributions and standard monthly contributions thereafter shall be covered by their respective local government unit.

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



BEN P. EVARDONE
Representative, Lone District of Eastern Samar

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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:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 6 of Republic Act No. 7883, otherwise known as the
2 "Barangay Health Workers' Benefits and Incentives Act of 1995" is hereby
3 amended by adding a new subsection which shall read as follows:
4

5 "SEC. 6. *Incentives and Benefits.* - x x x

6 "(G) **PHILHEALTH COMPULSORY COVERAGE.** - ALL
7 BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS
8 SHALL BE ENROLLED IN THE NATIONAL HEALTH
9 INSURANCE PROGRAM FOR THEM TO RECEIVE AND AVAIL
10 OF AN ADEQUATE PACKAGE OF PERSONAL HEALTH
11 SERVICES THAT MUST INCLUDE IN-PATIENT HOSPITAL
12 CARE, OUT-PATIENT CARE, EMERGENCY AND TRANSFER
13 SERVICES, AND ALSO OTHER SUPPLEMENTARY
14

15 HEALTH BENEFITS AS MAY BE DEFINED BY THE
16 PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION (PHIC) AND THE
17 LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT (LGU) WHERE THEY RENDER
18 SERVICES.
19

20 "THE NEEDED PREMIUM CONTRIBUTIONS AND,
21 THEREAFTER, THE STANDARD MONTHLY CONTRIBUTIONS,
22 SHALL BE BORNE BY THE LGU CONCERNED; SUCH THAT,
23 UPON THE PASSAGE OF THIS ACT, THE BARANGAY HEALTH
24 WORKERS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS SHALL BE

1 AUTOMATICALLY ENTITLED TO THE FULL ENJOYMENT AND
2 AVAILMENT OF ESSENTIAL HEALTH SERVICES AS CONTAINED
3 IN REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7875 OR THE NATIONAL HEALTH
4 INSURANCE ACT: PROVIDED, THAT THE NATIONAL
5 GOVERNMENT SHALL PROVIDE SUBSIDY FOR THE PROGRAM
6 TO FOURTH, FIFTH AND SIXTH CLASS MIINICIPALITIES:
7 PROVIDED, FURTHER, THAT THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT'S
8 SUBSIDY TO QUALIFIED LGU SHALL NOT EXCEED FIFTY
9 PERCENT (50%) OF THE NEEDED PREMIUM COST.

10
11 "THE BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS SHALL NOT BE
12 REQUIRED TO PAY MONTHLY CONTRIBUTIONS AND ALL
13 OTHER FEES OR CHARGES FOR THEM TO BE ENTITLED TO THE
14 PROGRAM'S BENEFITS."

15
16 SEC. 2. *Oversight Provision.* -Congress shall conduct a regular review of
17 this program which shall primarily evaluate its implementation with regard to its
18 impact and accomplishments. Such review shall be jointly undertaken by the
19 committees in the Senate and the House of Representatives which have legislative
20 jurisdiction over this program.

21
22 SEC. 3. *Government Guarantee.* - The government of the Republic of the
23 Philippines guarantees the financial viability of this program.

24
25 SEC. 4. *Rules and Regulations* - The Philippine Health Insurance
26 Corporation, in consultation and coordination with the Department of the Interior
27 and Local Government and the leagues of governors, vice governors and mayors
28 of the Philippines, shall formulate within one hundred (100) days the rules and
29 regulations necessary to implement this Act.

30
31 SEC. 5. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act is declared
32 invalid the remainder or any of the provisions hereof not affected thereby shall
33 remain in force and effect.

34
35 SEC. 6. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, executive orders,
36 presidential issuances and other administrative rules and regulations or parts
37 thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or
38 modified accordingly.

39
40 SEC. 7. *Effectivity* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
41 publication in at least two (2) national newspaper of general circulation.

42
43 Approved,