

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

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1567

Introduced by Rep. BERNADETTE HERRERA-DY

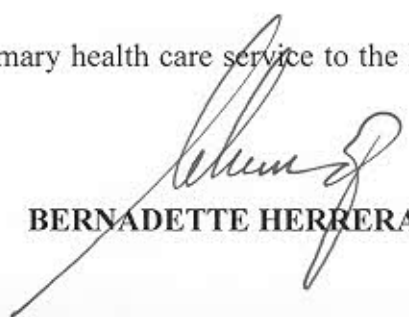
EXPLANATORY NOTE

Barangay Health Workers (BHWs) are volunteers accredited by the Local Health Board who have been trained to provide primary health care services in the community in accordance with the guidelines promulgated by the Department of Health. They are front liners in the delivery of primary health care services in the grassroots level.

Recognizing the active role of the BHWs as frontliners in primary health care, Republic Act No. 7883 otherwise known as the Magna Carta for BHWs was passed in 1995. The law provides incentives and benefits to all accredited BHWs who are actively and regularly performing their duties such as hazard and subsistence allowance, educational programs, scholarships, civil service eligibility, free legal services and preferential access to loan. However, since the BHWs are not compulsory members of both the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PHILHEALTH) and the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), this in effect, denies our BHWs of the basic health, retirement, disability and funeral benefits that they truly deserve.

Considering the contribution and critical role that our BHWs play in our society, this bill seeks to make the membership of all accredited BHWs to PHILHEALTH and GSIS compulsory thereby expanding and increasing the benefits they are currently receiving.

For the BHWs who devotedly and tirelessly provide primary health care service to the Filipino people, the approval of this Bill is urgently sought.


BERNADETTE HERRERA-DY

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

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1567

Introduced by Rep. BERNADETTE HERRERA-DY

AN ACT

**GRANTING COMPULSORY COVERAGE TO ACCREDITED BARANGAY
HEALTH WORKERS IN THE NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM
AND THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM, 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 amended by
3 adding new subsections to read as follows:

4 **“SEC. 6. Incentives and Benefits. – x x x**

5 **“(F) PHILHEALTH COMPULSORY COVERAGE. – ALL BARANGAY**
6 **HEALTH WORKERS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS SHALL BE ENROLLED IN**
7 **THE NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM TO ENABLE THEM TO**
8 **RECEIVE AND AVAIL OF AN ADEQUATE PACKAGE OF PERSONAL**
9 **HEALTH SERVICES INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO IN-PATIENT**
10 **HOSPITAL CARE, OUT- PATIENT CARE, EMERGENCY AND TRANSFER**
11 **SERVICES, AND ALSO OTHER SUPPLEMENTARY HEALTH BENEFITS,**

H.B. NO. 1567

1 AS MAY BE PROVIDED IN THE PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE
2 CORPORATION (PHIC) AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT (LGU)
3 WHERE THEY RENDER SERVICES.

4 “(G) GSIS COMPULSORY COVERAGE. — ALL BARANGAY HEALTH
5 WORKERS SHALL BE ENROLLED IN THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE
6 INSURANCE SYSTEM TO ENABLE THEM TO RECEIVE AND AVAIL OF
7 THE RETIREMENT, DISABILITY AND FUNERAL BENEFITS.

8 **SEC. 2.** The premium contribution and thereafter, the standard monthly
9 contributions, shall be borne by the LGU concerned; Provided, That the National
10 Government shall subsidize fifty percent (50%) of the contributions of fourth, fifth and
11 sixth class municipalities.

12 Upon the passage of this Act, the barangay health workers shall be automatically
13 entitled to the full enjoyment and availment of essential health services, as contained in
14 Republic Act No. 7875 or the National Health Insurance Act, and the retirement, disability
15 and burial benefits and other supplemental benefits, as may be defined by Republic Act No.
16 8391 or The Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997.

17 Barangay health workers shall not be required to pay monthly contributions and all
18 other fees or charges for them to be entitled to these benefits.

19 **SEC. 3.** Oversight Provision. — Congress shall conduct a regular review of this
20 program which shall primarily evaluate its implementation with regard to its impact and
21 accomplishments. Such review shall be jointly undertaken by the appropriate committees in
22 the Senate and the House of Representatives which have legislative jurisdiction over this
23 program.

1 **SEC. 4.** Rules and Regulations. - The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation and
2 the Government Sewice Insurance System, in consultation and coordination with the
3 appropriate government agencies, such as, but not limited to, the Department of Health,
4 Department of the Interior and Local Government, Department of Budget and Management,
5 and the leagues of governors, vice governors, mayors, and barangay captains of the
6 Philippines, shall formulate within one hundred twenty (120) days the rules and regulations
7 necessary to implement this Act.

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

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

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

Approved.