

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4771

Introduced by Honorable Carol Jayne B. Lopez

EXPLANATORY NOTE

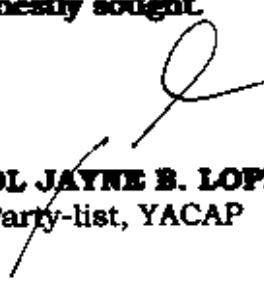
Art. II Section 15 of the Philippine Constitution states that, "the state shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them". It is from this premise that the government pursues the Primary Health Care Approach in order to make health services accessible to the people. This approach also includes education and training of health workers.

At the forefront of the government's health advocacy, are our Barangay Health Workers. They are the ones providing the basic health education and delivery of basic health services to our people. With the exodus of our health care workers (doctors, nurses, midwives, and care-givers) seeking greener pastures outside the country and with our growing population, the role and tasks of our Barangay Health Workers, especially in remote areas, are indispensable.

Despite their indispensability, they are only considered, as volunteers. They receive very minimal honoraria from their respective local government units. These honoraria are not commensurate to the dedication, heavy tasks, and exposure to risks of our Barangay Health Workers.

This bill seeks to address the needs of our BHWs and to further harness their potential in doing grassroots health education. Through this bill, they will receive a regular monthly compensation, thereby, ensuring their welfare and of the state, in general. It hereby seeks amendments to Republic Act 7883 known as An Act Granting Benefits and Incentives to Accredited Barangay Health Workers and for other Purposes.

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


CAROL JAYNE B. LOPEZ
Party-list, YACAP

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**AN ACT GRANTING COMPENSATION
TO ACCREDITED BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS
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:

SECTION 1. Section 3 of Republic Act no. 7883, otherwise known as the Barangay Health Workers' Benefits and Incentives Act of 1995, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 3. Definition. - The term barangay health workers refers to a person who has undergone training programs under any accredited government and non-government organization and who ~~[DELETE : voluntarily]~~ renders primarily health care services in the community after having been accredited to function as such by the local health board in accordance with the guidelines promulgated by the Department of Health (DOH).

SECTION 2. The same Act is hereby amended by adding a new section which shall read as follows:

Section 6. Compensation. - Accredited Barangay Health Workers shall be considered in the Sub-Professional Non-Supervisory Category with an assigned Salary Grade 1. The amount shall be charged against the appropriation of the Department of Health which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 3. Oversight Provision. - Congress shall conduct a regular review of this program which shall primarily evaluate its implementation with regard to its impact and accomplishments. Such review shall be jointly undertaken by the committees in the Senate and House of Representatives which have legislative jurisdiction over this program.

SECTION 4. Separability Clause. - If any provision of this Act is declared invalid, the remainder or any of the provisions hereof not affected thereby shall remain in force and in effect.

SECTION 5. Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees, executive orders, presidential issuances and other administrative rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 6. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,