

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

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 556



Introduced by **HONORABLE LANI MERCADO-REVILLA**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

To achieve economic growth and development in the country, our government should put emphasis on the provision of basic health services to our people. For how could a government implement its programs and projects if its working force, the people, are physically weak and in dire need of medical attention? Aside from health workers, the government has rural health doctors to ensure that basic health services are being delivered to our people especially in the rural areas. But being government employees, our rural health doctors receive salaries far lower than their other contemporaries in the private sectors. There is a need therefore to provide legislation giving incentives to rural health unit doctors, who provide vital health services to our people, to promote their rights and welfare and enhance their sense of work and dignity.

Hence, to give due respect and recognition to the dedicated and unselfish services of the front-liners in delivering vital health care services to our countrymen, it is necessary that this bill is immediately enacted into law.


REP. LANI MERCADO-REVILLA
2nd District, Cavite

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**AN ACT GRANTING INCENTIVES AND OTHER BENEFITS TO RURAL HEALTH
UNIT DOCTORS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

Section 1. Title. - This Act shall be known as the "Rural Health Unit Doctors Incentives and other Benefits Act of 2013."

Section 2. Statement of Policy. - The State shall protect and promote the right to health of people and instill health consciousness among them by giving each individual unimpaired access to health and information services. Towards this end, this Act shall provide incentives and benefits to rural health unit doctors, the front-liners in the promotion, protection and maintenance of health in the rural areas.

Section 3. Definition of Term. - The term "rural health doctor" refers to a licensed doctor of medicine employed by the local government who is assigned to actively or regularly perform his/her official duties in a rural area or remote community.

Section 4. Incentives and Benefits. - In recognition of their services, rural unit health doctors shall in addition to their incentives and benefits granted under existing laws, be entitled to the following:

(a) hazard allowance in an amount to be determined by the local health board of the local government unit concerned;

(b) subsistence allowance equivalent to the meals they take in the course of their duty which shall be computed in accordance with prevailing circumstances as determined by the local government unit concerned;

(c) scholarships in the form of tuition fees and stipends.

Section 5. All laws, decrees, rules and regulations and executive orders contrary to and inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,