



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

Sixteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 691



Introduced by : **Honorable GEORGE P. ARNAIZ**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act No. 7883 granted benefits and incentives to barangay health workers and barangay nutrition scholars who have undergone the appropriate training programs to voluntarily render primary healthcare services in the community and were accredited to function as such by the local health board in accordance with the guidelines promulgated by the Department of Health.

Among these benefits are the hazard allowance, subsistence allowance, educational programs, scholarship grants, special training programs, civil service eligibility upon qualification, free legal services and preferential access to loan services.

Unfortunately, the provision of health care benefits has been left out for these commendable individuals who provide accessible and acceptable health services anchored on the Primary Health Care Approach of government.

This measure makes up for the want by mandating the Barangay Health Workers and Barangay Nutrition Scholars coverage in the National Health Insurance Program under the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation. At the very least, they and their dependents will be ensured of quality health care services that are affordable, acceptable, available and accessible.

The immediate and favorable passage of this bill is earnestly requested.



GEORGE P. ARNAIZ

Representative

2nd District, Oriental Negros



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AN ACT
REQUIRING THE MANDATORY COVERAGE OF ALL BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS AND BARANGAY NUTRITION SCHOLARS IN THE NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM (NHIP) UNDER THE PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION (PHILHEALTH)

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

SECTION 1. *Objective.* – This Act seeks to provide for the mandatory coverage of all Barangay Health Workers and Barangay Nutrition Scholars in the National Health Insurance Program (NHIP), hereinafter referred to as the Program, under the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth).

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – Section II, Article XIII of the 1987 Constitution declares that the State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost. Priority for the needs of the underprivileged, sick elderly, disabled women and children shall be recognized. Likewise, it shall be the policy of the State to provide free medical care to paupers.

SECTION 3. *Coverage.* – All duly-accredited Barangay Health Workers and Barangay Nutrition Scholars under Presidential Decree 1569 shall be covered by the Program.

SECTION 4. *Enrollment.* – All Barangay Health Workers and Barangay Nutrition Scholars shall be enrolled in the National Health Insurance Program in order for them to be placed under coverage that entitles them to avail of the benefits and financial assistance provided therein.

SECTION 5. *Contributions.* – The Department of Health shall pay the monthly contribution of the barangay health workers enrolled under the Program.

SECTION 6. *Appropriation.* – The funds necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be appropriated from the national budget and shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act as part of the budget of the Department of Health.

SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, rules and regulations, and executive orders contrary or inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 8. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect upon its approval and completion of its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,