

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 2653



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Introduced by Representatives  
DIOSDADO MACAPAGAL ARROYO and GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO

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AN ACT  
TO PROVIDE HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONERS IN RURAL AREAS WITH TRAINING  
IN PREVENTIVE HEALTH CARE, INCLUDING BOTH PHYSICAL AND MENTAL  
CARE, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article II, Section 15, of the Constitution declares that "*The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.*" A long string of challenges, however, prevent the aforementioned policy from being fully carried out. Among the challenges for the country's health care system are the: (1) retention of medical staff, particularly in rural settings; (2) provision of health care to isolated groups; and (3) prevention and control of non-communicable diseases. It is in this light that this measure seeks to allow the Department of Health to enter into contracts for preventive health care training of rural health care practitioners.

This bill seeks to respond to our rural communities' need for quality health care and disease prevention programs. This measure encourages interdisciplinary preventive training of rural health care providers. Through such training, rural health care providers can build a strong educational foundation from the behavioral, biological, and psychological sciences. The distress caused by poor health is immense and gets compounded. The huge financial burden redounds from individuals to families to government.

The intent of this measure rests on the premise that implementing preventive health services will protect the community from huge potential psychological and financial quandary in the long run.

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



**DIOSDADO MACAPAGAL ARROYO**  
Second District, Camarines Sur



**GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO**  
Second District, Pampanga

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**IN PREVENTIVE HEALTH CARE, INCLUDING BOTH PHYSICAL AND MENTAL**  
**CARE, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act may be known as the “Rural Preventive Health Care Training Act of 2013.”

SECTION 2. *Preventive Health Care Training.* – The Secretary of the Department of Health (hereinafter referred to as the Secretary) may enter into contracts with universities and private organizations to provide preventive health care training to health care practitioners practicing in rural areas such as in the Rural Health Units (RHUS) and Barangay Health Stations. Such training shall, to the extent practicable, include training in health care to prevent both physical and mental disorders before the initial occurrence of such disorders; and interdisciplinary training project applications such as those that draw from the behavioral, biological, and psychological sciences.

SECTION 3. *Use of Assistance.* – Amounts received under contract entered into under this Act shall be used -

- a. to provide student stipends to individuals attending rural community colleges or other institutions that service predominantly rural communities, for the purpose of enabling the individuals to receive preventive health care training;

- b. to increase staff support at rural community colleges or other institutions that service predominantly rural communities to facilitate the provision of preventive health care training;
- c. to provide training in appropriate research and program evaluation skills in rural communities;
- d. to create and implement innovative programs and curricula with a specific prevention component; and
- e. for other purposes as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

SECTION 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Department of Health (DOH) shall promulgate the rules and regulations necessary for the effective enforcement of the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 5. *Appropriation.* – The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be taken out from the appropriations of the Department of Health. Thereafter, such amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 6. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to, or inconsistent with, the provisions of this Act, is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

SECTION 8. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

*Approved,*