

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
House of Representatives
Quezon City

16th Congress
3rd Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6373



Introduced by Congressman Alfredo D. Vargas III

EXPLANATORY NOTE

As part of the country's Millenium Development Goals (MDGs), the Philippines aims to reduce child mortality and improve maternal health.

According to the 5th Philippine Progress Report on the MDGs, the Philippines has a high probability of achieving the target of reducing the mortality rate of children. In 2011, the Philippines recorded a child mortality rate of 30 out of 1,000 live births which is not far from the 2015 target of 26.7. Moreover, infant mortality rate also decreased from 57 per 1,000 live births in 1990 to 22 per 1,000 live births in 2011. The 2015 target is 19.

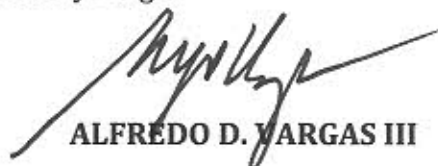
However, it is feared that the Philippines will not meet its MDG target on maternal health as the maternal mortality ratio increased from 209 deaths per 100,000 live births in 1990 to 221 deaths in 2011, a far cry from the 2015 target of 52.

The State must exhaust all efforts to ensure that the country will meet the targets set forth by the United Nations.

This bill seeks to provide automatic health insurance coverage to all women about to give birth who are not yet enrolled under any existing categories of the PhilHealth and their newborn children. The premium of such membership shall be sourced from the sin tax collections in accordance with Republic Act No. 10351, otherwise known as "An Act Restructuring the Excise Tax and Tobacco Products."

Through this initiative, all expectant mothers and newborn children will be provided with proper pre and post natal care and adequate health care services, thus contributing to the attainment of the country's MDGs of reducing child mortality and improving maternal health.

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


ALFREDO D. VARGAS III

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AN ACT

GRANTING AUTOMATIC PHILHEALTH COVERAGE FOR ALL WOMEN ABOUT TO GIVE BIRTH AND THEIR NEWBORN CHILDREN, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7875, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10606, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE ACT OF 2013", PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the *"Philhealth Para sa Buntis at Kanyang Sanggol Act of 2015"*.

Sec. 2. Section 12 of Republic Act No. 7875, as amended by Republic Act No. 10606 is hereby further amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 12. Entitlement to Benefits. – A member whose premium contributions for at least three (3) months have been paid within six (6) months prior to the first day of availment, including those of the dependents, shall be entitled to the benefits of the Program: Provided, that such member can show that contributions have been made with sufficient regularity: Provided, further, that the member is not currently subject to legal penalties as provided for in Section 44 of this Act.

"The following need not pay the monthly contributions to be entitled to the Program's benefits:

- a. Retirees and pensioners of the SSS and GSIS prior to the effectivity of this Act: [and]
- b. Lifetime members[.] : **AND**

**c. ALL FILIPINO WOMEN ABOUT TO GIVE BIRTH AND THEIR
NEWBORN CHILDREN WHO ARE NOT CURRENTLY COVERED
UNDER ANY EXISTING CATEGORY OF PHILHEALTH."**

Sec. 3. Section 29-B of Republic Act No. 7875 as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 29-B. *Coverage of Women About to Give Birth.* – The annual required premium for the coverage of unenrolled women who are about to give birth **AND THEIR NEWBORN CHILDREN** shall be fully borne by the national government **TO BE SOURCED FROM THE NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE FUND OF PHILHEALTH EARMARKED FROM THE PROCEEDS OF SIN TAX COLLECTIONS AS PROVIDED FOR IN REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10351.** [and/or LGUs and/or legislative sponsor which shall be determined through the means testing protocol recognized by the DSWD].

Sec. 4. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

Sec. 5. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulations.

Approved,