

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



SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 6474

Introduced by
REP. RAYMOND DEMOCRITO C. MENDOZA
Trade Union Congress Party (TUCP PARTYLIST)

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Government has been successful in implementing the *Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino* Program (4Ps) but while the program targets the poorest of the poor, the program excludes the minimum wage earners (MWEs). MWEs are not classified as poorest of the poor but they are in reality in the fringe, near-poor hanging pendulous between poverty and poverty threshold, neck-deep in debt and vulnerable to the slightest flick of either economic changes or calamities manmade or otherwise.

MWEs are mostly the bread winners who also serve as the informal security net and the only line of defense for their extended family to hurdle hunger, sickness, homelessness and the multifarious vulnerabilities and insecurities which sickness, natural calamities and the unexpected brings. For decades, MWEs have been waiting for the long promised trickle down of economic growth and endured being the sacrificial lambs during economic downturns but forgotten during economic upturns. With contractualization or ENDO employment scheme at epidemic proportion, a big number of MWEs have become forever minimum wage and in insecure jobs. The ascent of the current Administration is built on long nurtured hope to be recognized as the backbone of the economy and thus, justly be given their fair share of the economic growth. A continuous deprivation of their just share and lack of concern on their welfare will not augur well for the future of the country and of the current Administration's political capital.

As a form of safety net and recognizing the immeasurable contribution of the MWEs, who constitute an overwhelming majority of the workforce, the passage of this bill is urgently requested.


Rep. RAYMOND DEMOCRITO C. MENDOZA

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17 AN ACT
18 PROVIDING FOR A LABOR EMPOWERMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LEAP),
19 AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE CHAPTER II OF TITLE VIII, BOOK V OF
20 PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 442, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LABOR CODE
21 OF THE PHILIPPINES, AS AMENDED
22

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

25
26 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** - This Act shall be known as the "Labor
27 Empowerment Assistance Program of 2017" or "LEAP Act of 2017".
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29 **SECTION 2.** Chapter II on providing assistance to labor organizations under
30 Title VIII, Book V of Presidential Decree No. 442, otherwise known as the Labor
31 Code of the Philippines, as amended, is hereby amended by providing a new, Article
32 282-A, to read as follows:
33

34 **ARTICLE 282-A. Labor Empowerment Assistance Program.**

35 – To provide a safety net to working poor, all minimum wage earners in
36 the private sector, as listed in the Social Security System (SSS)
37 schedule of contribution, shall be provided a monthly financial subsidy
38 of at least FIVE HUNDRED PESOS (Php500.00) in the form of a non-
39 transferable cash voucher for food and basic services under the Labor
40 Employment Assistance Program (LEAP).
41

42 The LEAP shall be implemented by the Department of Labor
43 and Employment (DOLE) in coordination with the Department of Trade
44 and Industry (DTI), Social Security System (SSS) and other relevant
45 government agencies. Registered trade union centers, subject to the
46 criteria to be set forth in the Implementing Rules and Regulations, shall
47 be accredited for the distribution of LEAP vouchers under the
48 supervision of the DOLE Regional Offices.
49

1 **SECTION 3. *Funding.*** – Initial funding for the implementation of this Act shall
2 be sourced against any applicable appropriation items under the current General
3 Appropriations Act. Subsequently, the amount necessary to implement this Act shall
4 be included by the Department of Budget and Management in the annual General
5 Appropriations Act (GAA) with a provision for ten percent (10%) administrative cost.

6
7 **SECTION 4. *Implementing Rules.*** - Within sixty (60) days from the
8 effectivity of this Act, the DOLE shall, in consultation with relevant stakeholders,
9 issue the appropriate implementing rules and regulations.

10
11 **SECTION 5. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, executive orders, rules and
12 regulations or any part hereof inconsistent herewith are deemed repealed or
13 modified accordingly.

14
15 **SECTION 6. *Separability Clause.*** - If any part or provision of this Act shall
16 be declared unconstitutional and invalid, such declaration shall not invalidate other
17 parts thereof which shall remain in full force and effect.

18
19 **SECTION 7. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days its
20 complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of
21 general circulation, whichever comes earlier.

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24 *Approved,*