

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

7806
HOUSE BILL No. _____



**Introduced by Reps. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE, ANTONIO L. TINIO,
EMMI A. DE JESUS, FRANCE L. CASTRO, ARLENE D. BROSAS,
ARIEL B. CASILAO, and SARAH JANE I. ELAGO**

**AN ACT
GRANTING FILIPINO CITIZENSHIP
TO SISTER PATRICIA ANNE THOMPSON FOX**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Sister Patricia Anne Thompson Fox, NDS, or simply, Sr. Pat as she is fondly called, is an Australian missionary of Our Lady of Sion, an international Catholic congregation. She is 71 years old. She is currently the Provincial Superior of the Sisters of Our Lady of Sion in the Philippines. She has been in the Philippines for 27 years.

Sr. Pat was born in Australia on March 7, 1947. Her congregation's solidarity visit to the Philippines in 1984 stirred her heart to dedicate her missionary work to the Philippines. In 1990, Sr. Pat left her good life in Australia as a teacher and a lawyer and chose the Philippines as her missionary area and to live with the poor, particularly the peasants and indigenous peoples.

Her congregation fully supported her mission following the mandate and prophetic role of the church in proclaiming the Good News to those in need at the peripheries of society.

As Sister Pat started her missionary work in the country, she helped out the justice and peace ministry of Infanta Prelature through conducting research on mining and various land issues. The output of the research helped educate farmers on their rights and how extractive practices impact on agriculture and the environment.

After five (5) years, Sr. Pat moved to the northern part, in the town of Aurora, to join the Justice and Peace Action Group of the Prelature.

In 1991, Sr. Pat became the coordinator of the Rural Missionaries of the Philippines (RMP) Southern Tagalog, in 1997 became the RMP Central Luzon regional coordinator, and, from 2000 to 2007, served as its National Coordinator.

To the many poor farmers and the downtrodden that Sr. Pat served, even her mere presence is considered a gift. She was with of farmworkers of Hacienda Luisita in their fight to own the land that they tilled for a long time, even during the time of the infamous 2004 massacre. She was with farmers and workers who were arrested and imprisoned for trumped up charges; with the urban poor communities when they were displaced and their lowly abode demolished. She listened to the cry of the indigenous peoples when their lands were grabbed and the schools they have set up were destroyed. She gave inspiration to farmers and workers to stand for their rights as part of the teachings of the Church. Despite her age she encourages the youth to take on the challenges of the times.

On April 16, 2018, Sr. Pat was taken by the officials of the Bureau of Immigration (BI) from her congregation's mission house in Quezon City. Although she was released the following day after a 22-hour detention, she was placed under "further investigation" for supposedly engaging in "political activities." Later, her missionary visa was cancelled by the Immigration Bureau. Sr. Pat is the first religious missionary to be investigated since the martial law years when foreign priests were deported under the dictatorship of Ferdinand Marcos.

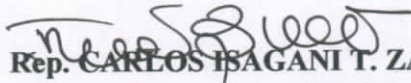
"As a Christian, believing that our mission is to bring God's Kingdom to the here and now, I couldn't help but to get involved both with projects, such as training in organic farming, to uplift the livelihood of the farmers, but also to advocate with them for their rights to land, livelihood, peace, justice and security, all universal human rights which the church sees as integral to her mission," Sr. Pat once said, explaining her mission.

For 27 years, Sr. Pat lived with and served the farmers, indigenous peoples and other marginalized people in the communities. By living with the poor and oppressed, Sr. Pat has come to understand, experience and embrace the culture and the struggle of the poor Filipino majority. Not only that she speaks their language, Sr. Pat was accepted by the Filipino communities and was treated as one of their own because she lives and struggles with them.

Instead of prosecuting and deporting Sr. Pat through false charges, the government should instead recognize and acknowledge her sacrifices in almost three decades of her selfless service to the Filipino people.

Granting Filipino Citizenship to Sr. Patricia Ann Fox would be much more than a fitting recognition for her selfless service to the poor and oppressed Filipinos. It is a response to the call of many farmers, fisherfolks, and indigenous people whose lives were touched and helped by Sr. Pat.

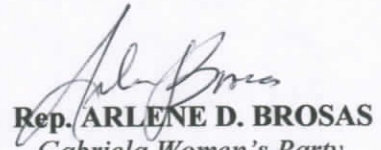
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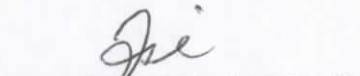

Rep. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE
Bayan Muna Partylist


Rep. ANTONIO L. TINIO
ACT Teachers Partylist


Rep. EMMI A. DE JESUS
Gabriela Women's Party


Rep. FRANCE L. CASTRO
ACT Teachers Partylist


Rep. ARLENE D. BROSAS
Gabriela Women's Party


Rep. ARIEL B. CASILAO
Anakpawis Partylist


Rep. SARAH JANE I. ELAGO
Kapataan Partylist

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

SECTION 1. Sr. Patricia Anne Thompson Fox, who has been living in the Philippines nearly three decades now, is hereby granted Philippine citizenship with all the rights, privileges and prerogatives, as well as the duties and obligations appurtenant thereto.

SECTION 2. Sr. Patricia Anne Thompson Fox shall take the Oath of Allegiance to the Republic of the Philippines before an officer duly authorized to administer the same. The Oath of Allegiance shall be registered with the Bureau of Immigration.

SECTION 3. Upon registration of the Oath of Allegiance, the Bureau of Immigration shall issue a Certificate of naturalization to Sr. Patricia Anne Thompson Fox who shall thereupon enter into the full enjoyment of Philippine citizenship.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in any newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,