



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



SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session
8571
House Bill No. ____

Introduced by **DIWA Party-list Representative Pepito M. Pico**

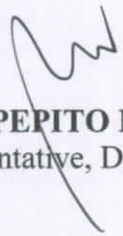
EXPLANATORY NOTE

In the year 2015, remittances from Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) amounted to \$29.7 billion. These remittances have been one of the vital aspects in sustaining our economy. According to the Philippine Statistics Authority, there are now 2.4 million OFWs all over the world whose remittances provide for their families at home and stimulate domestic spending. For their sacrifices and contributions, they have been rightfully dubbed as our modern day heroes.

Unfortunately, our so called modern day heroes have been unduly burdened by various issues that work against their interests. One of these issues is the burden of having to pay various fees as a pre-condition to travel.

This bill, a re-filing of House Bill No. 4004 filed by Rep. Roy V. Señeres last 16th Congress, gives the proper recognition to the sacrifices and contributions of our OFWs. The bill also reflect the mandate of Section 6, Article III, of the Philippine Constitution which states that the right to travel shall not be impaired except in the interest of national security, public safety, or public health, as may be provided by law.

For these reasons, I earnestly seek the support of my fellow legislators for the enactment of this bill into law.


PEPITO M. PICO

Representative, DIWA Party-list



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**AN ACT PROHIBITING THE COLLECTION OF ANY AMOUNT OF
MONEY IN ANY FORM OR FOR ANY PURPOSE FROM A DEPARTING
FILIPINO WORKER AS PRE-CONDITION FOR TRAVEL**

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

SECTION 1. Title. - This Act shall be known as the "OFW Travel Protection Act".

SECTION. 2. Declaration of Policy. - It shall be unlawful to impose, exact or collect any sum of money in any form and for any purpose from a departing overseas Filipino worker (OFW) as a pre-condition for travel except those authorized by law.

SECTION 3. Duty of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA). It shall be the duty of the POEA to strictly observe and implement the provisions of this act pursuant to its mandate to "afford protection to Filipino workers and their families, promote their interests and safeguard their welfare."

SECTION 4. Assistance of Law Enforcement Agency. - When necessary, the POEA may enlist the assistance of any law enforcement agency in order to effectively implement the provisions of this Act and carry out its mandate of protecting and promoting the welfare of Filipino workers.

SECTION 5. The POEA to File Appropriate Action. - The POEA shall initiate the filing of appropriate criminal complaints with the Department of Justice or any law enforcement agency, against any individual, juridical entity, its officers and personnel who violate the provisions of this Act. In case of judicial entities, the officers thereof are presumed to have consented to the violation.

SECTION 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - The incumbent POEA Administrator shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act within thirty (30) days from date of its effectivity.

SECTION 7. Penal Clause. - Any violation of Sections 2, 3 and 4 of this Act shall, after due process, cause the removal from office of the guilty party without prejudice to the filing of any case, civil or criminal, against them by the POEA or the offended party.

SECTION 8. Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees, ordinances, rules and regulations and other issuances or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 9. Effectivity Clause. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,