

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9046



Introduced by **HON. LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Many of our own have suffered greatly during the events that devastated the country in World War II. Families lost loved ones, men were injured and incapacitated, and some women, like the Filipino Comfort Women, suffered a great deal of physical and psychological trauma in the hands of the Japanese Imperial Army.

Filipino Comfort Women were those made to become sex slaves of the Japanese Imperial Army men during their stay in the country. Recognition for their plight has been a long time coming and deserved for all they have been through.

This bill proposes to provide pension and health benefits to comfort women. The National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women is designated to determine the authenticity of the identities of comfort women and assist them in the application for the compensation and benefits therein. The bill hopes to ease their life financially and for the State to provide for them a better situation than what they once went through.

The approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.

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SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9046

Introduced by HON. LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR PENSION AND HEALTH BENEFITS TO COMFORT WOMEN,
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the "Comfort Women Compensation and Benefit Act".

SECTION 2. Definition of Terms. –

- a. Comfort Women – shall mean Filipino Women who were made sex slaves by the Japanese Occupation Army during World War II as may be determined by the National Commission on Women;
- b. NCRFW – shall mean the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women;
- c. Department – shall mean the Department of Social Welfare and Development;
- d. PVAO – shall mean the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office;
- e. PhilHealth – shall mean the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation.

SECTION 3. Determination of Comfort Women. – The NCRFW is hereby tasked to determine the authenticity of the claims and identities of Comfort Women with the assistance of the various accredited cause-oriented women's groups. Applications

for the compensation and benefits herein provided for must be filed within two (2) years from the effectivity of this Act, otherwise the same shall forever be barred.

SECTION 4. *Responsibility of the Department.* – The Department shall formulate a program for the proper counseling and guidance of Comfort Women taking into consideration not only their ordeal in the hands of the Japanese Occupational Army but more so the pain and suffering of retelling them in public.

SECTION 5. *Duty of PhilHealth.* – The Philhealth is hereby mandated to provide free full medical insurance to Comfort Women as may be determined by the NCRFW.

SECTION 6. *Responsibility of PVAO.* – The PVAO shall provide for the monthly pension of Comfort Women in the amount of Three Thousand Pesos (Php 3,000.00).

SECTION 7. *Fund.* – An initial fund in the amount of Ten Million Pesos (Php 10,000,000.00) is hereby allocated for the processing of applications and payments of pensions and insurance of Comfort Women identified by the NCRFWF. Thereafter, the cost of the pensions and insurance shall be included in the budget of the PVAO and PhilHealth under the General Appropriation Act.

SECTION 8. *Separability Clause.* – Should any provision herein be declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity of the other provisions of this Act.

SECTION 9. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations or other issuances or parts inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 10. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect in fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official Gazette or in one (1) newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,