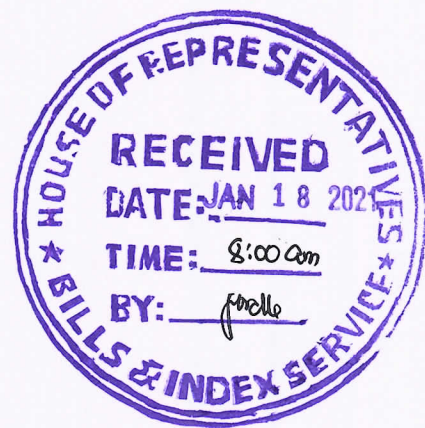


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8381



Introduced by **HON. JOY MYRA S. TAMBUNTING**

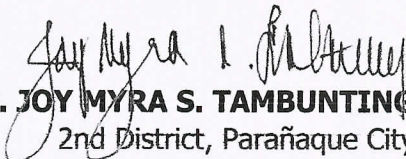
EXPLANATORY NOTE

Our health workers have been at the forefront of our battle against the COVID-19 pandemic since its onset in March 2020. Despite the challenges brought about by the limitations and weaknesses of our healthcare system, medical frontliners rallied on and kept working the service of every Filipino. Medical frontliners are our nation's line of defense against COVID-19 and future public health emergencies.

In recognition of the invaluable service of medical frontliners in the country's response to public health emergencies such as the COVID-19 pandemic, this measure seeks to make essential goods, health and other services available to them at a more affordable cost. Considering the hazards they face in the fulfillment of their duties which not only puts their physical well-being in risk but also their capacity to provide for themselves and their families, it is only apt that the State ensure and look after their welfare. Considering the fact that public health emergencies largely affect economies, it is important that medical frontliners are given some protection to ensure their wellbeing.

Under this proposed measure, medical frontliners are entitled to twenty percent (20%) discount on goods and services which includes public transport facilities, health services, accommodation and dining, and physical fitness facilities.

On behalf of the people of Parañaque City's Second District, and for the common good of the Filipino people, the approval of the said measure is earnestly sought.


REP. JOY MYRA S. TAMBUNTING
2nd District, Parañaque City

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EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
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HOUSE BILL NO. 8381

Introduced by **HON. JOY MYRA S. TAMBUNTING**

AN ACT
GRANTING DISCOUNT PRIVILEGES TO MEDICAL FRONTLINERS

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 “Medical Frontliners Discount Act”.

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to ensure the welfare of medical workers in recognition of their indispensable role in the healthcare system of our country, particularly in times of a pandemic or public health emergency. Towards this end, the State shall adopt a program to make essential goods, health and other services available to them at an affordable cost.

The provisions and benefits of this Act shall be given to public and private medical workers who are actively engaged in treating patients affected by a pandemic or national health emergency. The provisions of this Act shall only apply during a pandemic or public health emergency as declared by the National Government.

SECTION 3. Public Transport Facilities. – All government-owned and controlled corporation or private entities, owning, operating, or managing public transport facilities, whether land, sea, or air, shall give priority to the medical frontline workers, and provide them with at least twenty-percent (20%) discount on all transportation fare within the Philippines.

SECTION 4. Health Services. – Medical frontline workers shall also be entitled to a discount of at least twenty percent (20%) on fees or charges for hospital, medical, and dental services rendered by public and private medical institutions and practitioners.

Drugstores and drug companies shall extend to the medical frontline workers a discount of not less than twenty percent (20%) on the cost of medicines and supplemental vitamins, as prescribed by a registered medical or dental practitioner.

SECTION 5. Hotels, Lodging Houses, Restaurants, and Eateries. – Medical frontline workers shall be granted a minimum discount of twenty percent (20%) on rentals for lodging in hotels, motels, inns, pension, or other lodging houses and on the cost of food served in cafes,

cafeterias, refreshment parlors, restaurants, soda fountain bars, carinderia, or food caterers, and other similar establishments.

SECTION 7. Physical Fitness Facilities. – Any hospital, gym, or other facility offering physical fitness programs shall extend to medical frontline workers at a twenty percent (20%) discount.

SECTION 8. Limitation on discount privileges and other benefits. – The discount privileges and other benefits mentioned in this Act shall apply only to the personal account of the public school teacher in payment for services and goods actually used by him or her. These shall not extend to his or her relatives or companions who are not qualified beneficiaries under this Act.

SECTION 9. Availment. – Medical frontline workers qualified under this act may avail of the discount privileges upon presentation of a valid identification card issued by their employer, a Professional Regulation Commission Professional ID Card and a supporting document issued by employer stating that they are in fact engaged in the treatment of patients affected by a pandemic or national health emergency.

SECTION 10. Rules and Regulations. – The Department Health, in coordination with the other concerned government agencies, in coordination with other stakeholders, shall issue the rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 11. Penalties. – Any person who refuses to extend the privileges and benefits granted under this Act to medical frontliners entitled thereto after request and proper identification of who unduly takes advantage of any such privileges or benefits, or who violates any of the rules and regulations promulgated pursuant to this Act, shall suffer the penalty of prison correccional or a fine of not less than two hundred pesos (PhP 200.00) nor more than six thousand pesos (PhP 6,000.00), or both such fine and imprisonment, at the discretion of the court.

In case the offender is a corporation, cooperative, partnership or association, the penalty shall be imposed upon the president, manager, or officers thereof who had knowingly permitted or were otherwise responsible for the commission of the offense. If it can be shown that such refusal to grant discount privileges is a corporate decision, all the members of the board shall be held liable.

In case of a succeeding offense, the penalties of both imprisonment and fine shall be imposed in the maximum period. In addition thereto, such shall be sufficient cause for the immediate cancellation of the professional license or permit to operate the business or medical establishment.

SECTION 12. Separability Clause. – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 13. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, executive orders or rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 14. Effectivity Clause. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,