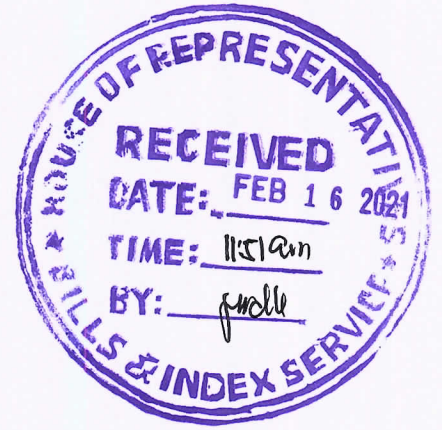


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 8735

Introduced by: **CONG. "KUYA" JOSE ANTONIO R. SY-ALVARADO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

It cannot be denied that there are aspects of learning that are better absorbed by students when delivered face-to-face. For instance, medical and other allied health sciences subjects cannot be purely taught through distance learning. The medical field largely requires practical and technical skills acquired through face-to-face clinical instruction and experience. Thus, this proposal seeks to classify students and teachers of medical and allied health courses as frontline health workers, provided that, they belong to schools and universities allowed by CHED to conduct limited face-to-face classes. The intent of this bill is to include them among those prioritized groups for COVID-19 vaccination.

Thus, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

CONG. "KUYA" JOSE ANTONIO R. SY-ALVARADO
Representative
First District of Bulacan

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
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HOUSE BILL NO. 8735

Introduced by: **CONG. "KUYA" JOSE ANTONIO R. SY-ALVARADO**

AN ACT
CLASSIFYING STUDENTS AND TEACHERS OF MEDICINE AND ALLIED HEALTH
SCIENCES COURSES WHO ATTEND FACE-TO-FACE CLASSES AS FRONTLINE
HEALTH WORKERS THEREBY INCLUDING THEM AMONG THOSE
PRIORITIZED GROUPS FOR CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)
VACCINATION

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 “*Citizens.*”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being. It is also the policy of the State to adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development.

Towards this end, it is vital for the State to invest on health workers in order to ensure better access to and enhanced quality of health services in the country.

SECTION 3. *Students and Teachers of Medicine and Allied Health Sciences as Frontline Health Workers.* – The Department of Health (DOH) shall classify students and teachers of medicine and allied health sciences who are required to attend face-to-face classes in schools and universities and/or who are fulfilling their internship requirements in hospitals, clinics and other health-related establishments as frontline health workers.

SECTION 4. *Priority in COVID-19 Vaccination.* – Being classified as frontline health workers, these students and teachers shall then be included among those prioritized groups for COVID-19 vaccination and other benefits.

SECTION 5. *Limitation.* – The benefit given by this Act shall be limited to those students and teachers belonging to schools and universities allowed by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) to conduct limited face-to-face classes. CHED shall conduct regular inspections in such schools and universities in order to ensure that health protocols are being followed.

SECTION 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from its approval, the DOH, in coordination with the CHED, shall formulate and promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 7. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other provisions hereof.

SECTION 8. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, issuances or portion thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 9. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

