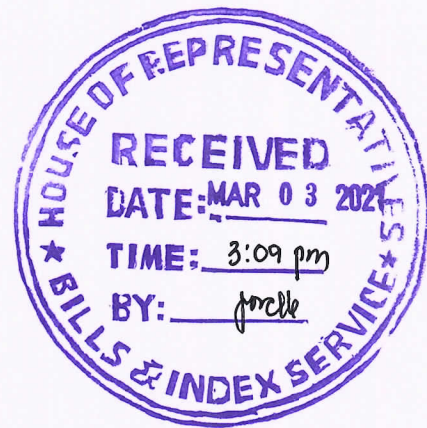




Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Eighteenth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8879



Introduced by Representative Senior Deputy Speaker Doy C. Leachon

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to provide a health program for the Mangyan indigenous cultural communities and indigenous peoples (ICCs/IPs) in the Province of Oriental Mindoro.

Section 15, Article II of the Constitution provides that *“The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.”* There are laws such as Republic Act (RA) No. 8371, also known as *“The Indigenous Peoples’ Rights Act of 1997,”* and RA 11223, otherwise known as the *“Universal Health Care Act,”* that guarantee the right of ICCs/ IPs to basic services, including health services, recognize and promote the rights of ICCs/IPs, and ensure equitable access to health care.

Mangyan refers to a group of tribal communities in the Island of Mindoro, namely, the Iraya, Alangan, Batangan, Tadyawan, Buhid, Tao Buid, Hanunoo, and Ratagnon. Studies have shown that the Mangyans are poor in health, malnourished and susceptible to various diseases. These health problems are attributable to the lack of available health care services for the Mangyans in the province.

This bill aims to protect and promote the welfare of the Mangyan ICCs/IPs as integral members of society. This bill will provide a health program specifically designed for the Mangyan ICCs/IPs in Oriental Mindoro. Through this program, special, efficient, and culture-sensitive health care services will be effectively delivered to the Mangyans.

Under the program, the Mangyan Health Center will be established to provide access to primary health care services such as regular check-up and treatment of illnesses. Proper health care infrastructures, medical supplies and equipment will be provided. The Mangyan Health Center will be located in the Municipality of Mansalay, Oriental Mindoro. With the establishment of the health center, the Mangyan ICCs/IPs will no longer suffer discrimination and displacement in seeking health services. They will finally receive the appropriate health care that they truly deserve.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly recommended.



ATTY. PAULINO "DOY" SALVADOR C. LEACHON
Senior Deputy Speaker
Representative, 1st District – Oriental Mindoro



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HOUSE BILL NO. 8879

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AN ACT

PROVIDING A MANGYAN HEALTH PROGRAM FOR THE INDIGENOUS CULTURAL COMMUNITIES AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES (ICCs/IPs) IN THE PROVINCE OF ORIENTAL MINDORO, ESTABLISHING FOR THE PURPOSE THE MANGYAN HEALTH CENTER, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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 “*Mangyan Health Program.*”

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to protect the right to health of the people and adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health, and other social services available to all the people. The State also recognizes the right of the indigenous peoples to have equitable access to health care services. Towards this end, it is necessary to provide a program that will ensure the delivery of adequate health

1 services appropriate to the needs, culture, and condition of the Mangyan indigenous
2 cultural communities and indigenous peoples (ICCs/IPs).

3 **SEC. 3. *Mangyan Health Program.*** – The Department of Health (DOH) shall,
4 in coordination with the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG),
5 National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), local government units, and
6 Mangyan tribal communities, establish and implement a health program for the
7 Mangyan ICCs/IPs, hereinafter referred to as the “*Program.*” The Program shall have
8 the following objectives:

9 a) Provide culture-sensitive primary health care services to Mangyan ICCs/IPs;

10 b) Ensure the efficient and effective delivery of health services to Mangyan
11 ICCs/IPs;

12 c) Ensure that in the delivery health services, Mangyan ICCs/IPs are not
13 discriminated;

14 d) Promote the equitable distribution of needed health resources; and

15 e) Recognize, support, and respect the safe and beneficial indigenous health
16 practices.

17 For purposes of this Act, Mangyan ICCs/IPs include the Iraya, Alangan,
18 Batangan, Tadyawan, Buhid, Tao Buid, Hanunoo, and Ratagnon.

19 **SEC. 4. *Program Components.*** – The components of the Program are as
20 follows:

21 a) Efficient health management and administration;

22 b) Health infrastructures and facilities;

- c) Capable human resources or staff;
- d) Sufficient supplies of medicines and equipment;
- e) Strategy on implementation; and
- f) Health promotion and education.

SEC. 5. *Mangyan Health Program Council.* – There shall be a Mangyan Health Program Council, hereinafter referred to as the “*Council*” which shall be responsible for the over-all planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of the health program and shall be composed of:

- a) Secretary of Health, as chairperson;
- b) Chairperson of the NCIP, as vice chairperson;
- c) Secretary of the Interior and Local Government;
- d) Representatives of the local chief executives of the local government units with Mangyan population; and
- e) Three (3) representatives of Mangyan communities which shall be appointed by the NCIP; as members.

The Secretary of Health, chairperson of the NCIP, and the Secretary of the Interior and Local Government may designate their authorized representatives with a rank not lower than that of an undersecretary from their respective offices.

The members shall serve without compensation, but they shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in their attendance in meetings of the Council or in connection with their official duties.

1 **SEC. 6. *Mangyan Health Center.*** – There is hereby established a health center
2 in the Municipality of Mansalay, Province of Oriental Mindoro, to be known as the
3 “*Mangyan Health Center.*” The Mangyan Health Center shall primarily provide
4 special and culture-sensitive primary health care services to Mangyan ICCs/IPs and
5 shall ensure the efficient and effective delivery of health services. It shall have
6 adequate and appropriate facilities to render quality health services to Mangyan
7 ICCs/IPs.

8 **SEC. 7. *Administration.*** – The Mangyan Health Center shall be headed by an
9 executive director who shall be appointed by the Secretary of Health. The executive
10 director shall administer, direct, coordinate, and control the affairs of the Mangyan
11 Health Center. The executive director shall receive compensation based on existing
12 compensation laws and shall enjoy the rank and privileges of a director of a government
13 hospital. The Mangyan Health Center shall have an assistant director, to be appointed
14 by the Secretary of Health, who shall assist the executive director in the management
15 of its administrative operations. The administrative staff comprising the Mangyan
16 Health Center shall be in accordance with the requirements and standards of the
17 staffing pattern set by the DOH.

18 The Council may detail or hire additional personnel for the effective and
19 efficient operation of the center.

20 **SEC. 8. *Powers and Functions.*** – The executive director shall exercise the
21 following powers and functions:

- 1 a) Govern the administration and operation of the affairs of the Mangyan Health
2 Center;
- 3 b) Develop or support patient care programs related to the appropriate care,
4 treatment, and accommodation of Mangyan patients;
- 5 c) Solicit and receive donations, endowments, and funds in the form of
6 contributions, whether in cash or in kind, from both the public and private sectors, local
7 or international, for and on behalf of the Mangyan Health Center;
- 8 d) Accept voluntary or uncompensated services;
- 9 e) Appoint such other personnel and staff as may be necessary for the effective
10 operation of the Mangyan Health Center, subject to existing civil service laws, rules,
11 and regulations;
- 12 f) Provide for the continued improvement of the Mangyan Health Center and its
13 facilities in accordance with the requirements of the DOH, including the training of
14 personnel;
- 15 g) Purchase and issue medicines, supplies and materials, equipment and property
16 required for its operation and maintenance, subject to availability of funds or
17 appropriation therefor;
- 18 h) Account for the funds, property and other assets of the Mangyan Health
19 Center and submit an annual financial report to the Secretary of Health at the end of
20 each year;

1 i) Promote cooperation and coordination with other medical institutions, public
2 or private health facilities, health centers and medical service agencies for any
3 assistance as may be required in the performance of duties; and

4 j) Perform such other functions as may be necessary for the accomplishment of
5 the objectives of this Act.

6 SEC. 9. ***Health Workers.*** – The Mangyan Health Center shall be composed of
7 composed of trained health workers which include doctors, nurses, midwives, and
8 other staff members who shall provide locally adopted and culture-sensitive care.
9 Mangyan health workers shall be employed in the center to facilitate communication
10 and understanding of the culture and practices of the patients.

11 SEC. 10. ***Supply of Essential Medicines and Equipment.*** – The Council shall
12 ensure the timely supply and delivery of essential medicines and equipment to the
13 Mangyan Health Center. It shall also recognize and support the development and
14 beneficial use of traditional or alternative medicines.

15 SEC. 11. ***Strategies.*** – In the delivery of health services, the social and cultural
16 determinants that affect the health practices of Mangyan ICCs/IPs must be considered.
17 Human rights must be respected, and social justice must also be taken into account.
18 Health services must be delivered on a regular basis, and with standards that include
19 safe and effective indigenous knowledge, system and practices. Quality control
20 mechanism for health services rendered shall ensure the access, adequacy and
21 appropriateness of the health services to Mangyan ICCs/IPs. Positive reinforcement

1 approach shall be employed to promote acceptability and utilization of the health
2 program and services.

3 SEC. 12. ***Health Promotion and Education.*** – The Mangyan Health Center
4 shall conduct health promotion and education sessions or seminars with Mangyan
5 ICCs/IPs under the Program, which shall consider the use of local language and
6 indigenous illustrations, visuals, and concepts for better comprehension. The Council
7 shall ensure the proper dissemination of health information.

8 SEC. 13. ***Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within sixty (60) days after
9 the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Health shall, in coordination with the
10 Chairperson of the NCIP, issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective
11 implementation of this Act.

12 SEC. 14. ***Appropriations.*** – The amount necessary for the effective
13 implementation of this Act shall be charged to the current year's appropriation of the
14 Department of Health. Thereafter, such sum necessary for its continued
15 implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

16 SEC. 15. ***Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, orders, proclamations, rules
17 and regulations, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby
18 repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

19 SEC. 16. ***Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
20 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

21 Approved,