

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **10391**



Introduced by **HON. JOY MYRA R. SALVADOR-TAMBUNTING**

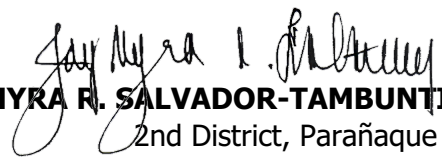
EXPLANATORY NOTE

"In the Philippines, toothache is a common ailment among school children, and is the primary cause of absenteeism from school. (Araojo 2003, 103-110) Indeed, dental and oral diseases create a silent epidemic, placing a heavy burden on Filipino schoolchildren."¹ The National Oral Health Survey (NOHS) in 2006 emphasized that those who suffer gum diseases, gingivitis and periodontal diseases in their childhood if left untreated and checked by experts may lead to incurable diseases as they reach adulthood.

We must accept the reality that rural areas are hard to reach locations in delivering government services thus this bill in creating a rural health unit (RHU) with a specialized dental unit will give the communities their deserved professional health amenities. The provision of a doctor, nurse and a midwife will create an easier access to health care services to those living in far-flung areas and will no longer require them to travel so much to the main city of their province.

This proposed legislation seeks to prevent and cure the prevalence of oral diseases such as the common complaints of dental caries or cavities and periodontal disease.

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.


JOY MYRA R. SALVADOR-TAMBUNTING
2nd District, Parañaque City

¹ <https://doh.gov.ph/dental-health-program>

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Introduced by **HON. JOY MYRA R. SALVADOR-TAMBUNTING**

AN ACT
CREATING A DENTAL UNIT IN EVERY RURAL HEALTH UNIT UNDER THE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AS PART OF THE PRIMARY APPROACH IN THE DELIVERY
OF HEALTH SERVICES AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

Section 1. Declaration of Policy. – It is the policy of the State:

- a) To pursue the Primary Health Care Approach in the delivery of health services and to undertake the appropriate health human resource development for this policy; and
- b) To promote preventive dental healthcare in the rural areas as part of the Primary Health Care strategy.

Sec. 2. Definition of Terms. – As used in this Act, the following terms shall mean:

- a) Rural Health Unit (also known as Main Health Center) shall be composed of a doctor, a nurse and a midwife. Its function is to carry out the public health functions of the Department of Health which includes both preventive and curative health care.
- b) Dental Unit shall be composed of a public health dentist and a trained Barangay Health Worker as a dental aide.

Sec. 3. Creation of Dental Unit. – As part of the Primary Health Care Approach, there is hereby created a dental unit in every rural health unit under the supervision of the Department of Health.

Sec. 4. Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR). – Within ninety (90) days from the approval of this Act, the Department of Health shall promulgate the rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

Sec. 5. Funding. – The amount necessary for the purpose of this Act shall be funded from the current fiscal year's appropriation for the Department of Health (DOH). Thereafter, such amount as may be necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

Sec. 6. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,