

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 61



Introduced by **Representative Jaime R. Fresnedi**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to recognize the importance of teachers in public schools in our society by providing them the wherewithal to mold our children with dignity. There is no better way to do this than by what this bill proposes - to enroll them in a Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) that they can utilize for their health needs.

Our teachers play a vital role in facilitating the learning and development of students. As the primary contributors to molding the minds of our learners, they are expected to perform with the highest degree of excellence and effectiveness.

While we already have the Universal Healthcare Law, we still hear and read of teachers lamenting how inadequate their meagre incomes are to ensure that they are fit and healthy to perform the harrowing duties and responsibilities of their chosen profession. We can do more for our teachers.

The government should realize that providing our public school teachers an HMO is a smart investment for the future. This proposal forms part of our efforts to protect the health, safety, and well-being of our teachers to enable them to perform their tasks efficiently and effectively.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


JAIME R. FRESNEDI
Representative
Lone District, Muntinlupa City

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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR A HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATION FOR PUBLIC
SCHOOL TEACHERS 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 "*Health Maintenance Organization for Public School Teachers Act.*"

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The State recognizes the vital role of public sector employees in nation building. As an important component of the public sector, the State shall ensure that public school teachers have access to quality and affordable health care. The government shall provide them access to comprehensive, quality, cost-effective, preventive, and rehabilitative health services.

SEC. 3. *Coverage.* – This Act shall cover all public school teachers under the Department of Education (DepEd).

SEC. 4. *Selection of Health Maintenance Organization.* – The DepEd shall, in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, as amended, procure a contract with a Health Maintenance Organization that shall be able to provide healthcare services to its employees.

For the purposes of this Act, a Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) refers to a health insurance organization which provides health insurance coverage for a monthly or annual fee charged to one's employer, and covers the fundamental services needed by individuals to maintain their health and well-being such as in-patient and out-patient care, basic surgeries, and other ancillary services like laboratory testing and medication.

SEC. 5. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the immediate implementation of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act for the year following its approval.

SEC. 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Department of Education, together with the Department of Health, shall formulate the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) for the effective implementation of this Act within thirty (30) days from its approval .

SEC. 7. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not so declared shall remain in force and effect.

SEC. 8. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders and rules, and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 9. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,