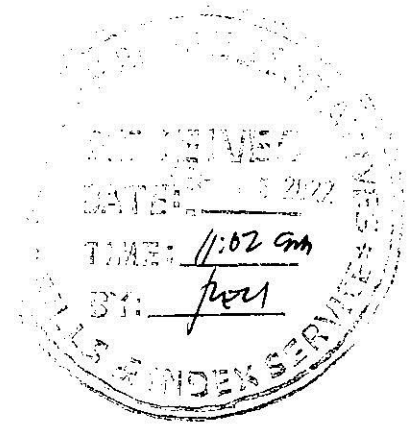


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4863



Introduced by
Maria Jamina Katherine B. Agarao
Representative
Fourth District, Laguna

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE LAGUNA HUMAN MILK BANK, PROVIDING
FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER RELATED PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

According to a report of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), only 34% of children under six months in the Philippines are exclusively breastfed. That means 66% of infants are denied the great benefits of breastfeeding.

According to international researches:

1. Breast milk is the best source of nutrition for most babies. - As the baby grows, the mother's breast milk will change to meet her baby's nutritional needs.
2. Breastfeeding can help protect babies against some short- and long-term illnesses and diseases. - Breastfed babies have a lower risk of asthma, obesity, type 1 diabetes, and sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS). Breastfed babies are also less likely to have ear infections and stomach bugs.
3. Breast milk shares antibodies from the mother with her baby. - These antibodies help babies develop a strong immune system and protect them from illnesses.
4. Mothers can breastfeed anytime and anywhere. - Mothers can feed their babies on the go without worrying about having to mix formula or prepare bottles. When traveling, breastfeeding can also provide a source of comfort for babies whose normal routine is disrupted.
5. Breastfeeding can reduce the mother's risk of breast and ovarian cancer, type 2 diabetes, and high blood pressure. -- Breastfeeding has health benefits for the mother too! Some cancers, type 2 diabetes, and high blood pressure are less common among women who breastfeed.

Both the WHO and UNICEF have recommended exclusive breastfeeding for every child's first 6 months for optimal growth, development and health, and then continuing breastfeeding while introducing nutritious complementary foods until a child is 24 months old or even beyond.¹

Towards this objective, the establishment of human milk banks is a step in the right direction. Hence, immediate approval of this measure is earnestly requested,



Maria Jamina Katherine B. Agarao
Representative
Fourth District, Laguna

¹ Exclusive breastfeeding for six months best for babies everywhere (who.int)

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

SECTION 1. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE LAGUNA HUMAN MILK BANK. – The Laguna Human Milk Bank is hereby established at the Laguna Provincial Hospital, Municipality of Santa Cruz, Province of Laguna.

SECTION 2. DECLARATION OF POLICY. – It shall be the policy of the state to promote and advance the health of women and children by providing for their basic needs. and by promoting and supporting breastfeeding as the natural way of providing infants with the nutrients for healthy growth and development.

SECTION 3. PERSONNEL. – The Laguna Human Milk Bank shall have the necessary personnel as indicated in the Philippine Human Milk Banking (Manual of Operations)² including a Milk Bank Head, Milk Bank Coordinator, Lactation Counselors, Designated Personnel and Administrative Clerks.

SECTION 4. FUNDING. – The budget required for the effective implementation of this Act shall be included in the budget of the DOH in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 5. IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS. – To ensure active and efficient implementation, the Department of Health shall, within sixty (60) days after the effectivity of this law, formulate the necessary Implementing Rules and Regulations including the Guidelines for Donors and Beneficiaries, and Education and

² FINAL DRAFT PNCHMB GUIDELINES June 29 Meeting Edited 2 (1).pdf (humanitarianresponse.info)

Promotion Plan to popularize breastfeeding and its advantages and to recruit donors as well as private partners and sponsors.

SECTION 6. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE. – If any provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not otherwise affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 7. REPEALING CLAUSE. – All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules and regulations, and other issuances, or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 8. EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,