

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

**NINETEENTH CONGRESS**  
*2<sup>nd</sup> Regular Session*

House Bill No. **10059**



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**Introduced by Representatives EDVIC G. YAP, ERWIN T. TULFO and  
JOCELYN P. TULFO**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Among the State policies accorded in the 1987 Constitution is the protection of the life of the mother and the life of the unborn from conception. In pursuit of the said Constitutional guarantee, Antenatal Care (ANC), or commonly known as prenatal care, is given high regard in the country, making it an essential mandatory preventive care provided regularly to pregnant women by allowing doctors, nurses, and midwives to identify, prevent and treat potential health problems throughout the pregnancy. However, in February 2023, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) reports that 2,478 Filipino women died of maternal causes in 2021, resulting to a Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) of 189.21 per 100,000 live births.

The Department of Health cites that poverty, distance, lack of information, inadequate services, and cultural practices are the common factors that prevent women from receiving or seeking care during pregnancy and childbirth in the country. It is important to take note that Antenatal Care (ANC) includes the preparation of childbirth, which does not only include hospital care but also maternity supplies needed by both the mother and the child.

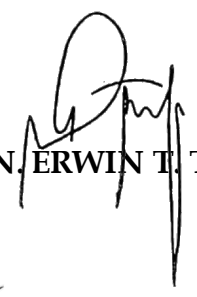
Expectant mothers are not only burdened by the exorbitant costs of child delivery but also the prospective costs of the child's needs after delivery. It is in this regard that this bill seeks to establish the Maternity Kit for Pregnant Filipino Women Program which may be availed of by expectant mothers who have already been identified as poor or near-poor based on the

Standardized Targeting System under Republic Act No. 11310 or the *Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) Act*, thereby affording protection to both the mother and child and mitigating the burden due to the expensive child birth costs.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this Bill is earnestly sought.



HON. EDVIC G. YAP



HON. ERWIN T. TULFO



HON. JOCELYN P. TULFO

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**AN ACT**  
**MANDATING THE PROVISION OF MATERNITY PACKAGES TO PREGNANT  
FILIPINO WOMEN BELONGING TO THE LOW-INCOME GROUP, PROVIDING  
FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

**SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** - This Act shall be known as the "*Maternity Kit for  
Pregnant Filipino Women Act of 2024.*"

**SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** - The State recognizes the role of women in nation-  
building. Further, the State shall 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 at affordable cost. There shall be priority for the  
needs of the underprivileged sick, elderly, disabled, women, and children. Finally, the  
State shall endeavor to provide medical care to paupers.

**SEC. 3. *Maternity Kit for Pregnant Filipino Women Program.*** - This Act hereby  
establishes the Maternity Kit for Pregnant Filipino Women Program which may be  
availed of by expectant mothers who have already been identified as poor or near-poor  
based on the Standardized Targeting System under Republic Act No. 11310, otherwise  
known as the "Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) Act." In order to qualify,

pregnant women must avail of pre-natal services, give birth in a health facility attended by a skilled health professional, and receive post-partum care and post-natal care for her newborn.

The maternity package / kit, to be distributed once free of charge to qualified beneficiaries, shall contain necessary items such as a blanket, diapers, gauze, towels, nappies, bedding, cloth / fabric (which could be used to make clothing for the baby) and child care products. The contents of the package shall be updated by the implementing agency every two (2) years.

**SEC. 4. *Objectives of the Program.*** - The Program shall have the following objectives:

- (a) Improve prenatal care for poor or near-poor pregnant Filipino women:
- (b) Reduce child mortality, especially for those belonging to families in the low-income group; and
- (c) Empower women to perform their role, more meaningfully, in nation-building.

**SEC. 5. *Implementing Agency.*** - The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) shall serve as the central planning, implementing and monitoring body of the Program.

**SEC. 6. *Appropriations.*** - The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be charged against those authorized in the current and subsequent General Appropriations Act.

**SEC. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - Within ninety (90) days after the approval of this Act, the DSWD shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation hereof.

**SEC. 8. *Separability Clause.*** - If any portion of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other provisions not so affected.

**SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, decrees, orders, issuances, rules and regulations which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

**SEC. 10. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication either in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

*Approved,*