

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **10148**



Introduced by Representatives Bryan B. Revilla, Angelica Natasha Co, Lani Mercado-Revilla, Ramon Jolo B. Revilla

EXPLANATORY NOTE

AN ACT DIRECTING EACH CITY, MUNICIPALITY, AND ACADEMIC INSTITUTION TO HIRE OR DESIGNATE AT LEAST ONE MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11036, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "MENTAL HEALTH ACT"

Section 11, Article XIII of the 1987 Constitution states that "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."

According to the World Health Organization (WHO),¹ suicide is the fourth leading cause of death among 15- to 29-year-olds. In the Philippines, the UP Population Institute reported in 2022 that close to one in five Filipino youth aged 15-24 have considered ending their life.² This grim scenario necessitates the need to ensure access of Filipinos to mental health professionals. The WHO asserts that "many mental health conditions can be effectively treated at relatively low cost, yet the gap between people needing care and those with access to care remains substantial."

This bill seeks to bridge that gap by making mental health services accessible to every Filipino, especially Filipino children. By requiring each city, municipality, and academic institution to hire or designate at least one mental health professional, the government would be able to ensure that there is at least one competent personnel who would look after the mental well-being of

¹ World Health Organization, n.d. https://www.who.int/health-topics/mental-health#tab=tab_1.

² UP Population Institute, 2022. https://www.uppi.upd.edu.ph/sites/default/files/pdf/YAFS5_Press%20Release_Mental%20Health.pdf

Filipinos and if need be, provide them with an adequate medical attention, especially in times of crisis situations like natural disasters and pandemics.

In light of the foregoing, the expedient passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



REP. BRYAN B. REVILLA
Representative, AGIMAT Party-list



REP. ANGELICA NATASHA CO
Representative, BHW Party-list



REP. LANI MERCADO-REVILLA
Representative, 2nd District of Cavite



REP. RAMON JOLO B. REVILLA III
Representative, 1st District of Cavite

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KNOWN AS THE “MENTAL HEALTH ACT”

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "One Town, One Mental Health Professional Act."

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The State affirms the basic right of all Filipinos to mental health as well the fundamental rights of people who require mental health services.

It is hereby declared the policy of the State to ensure the overall well-being of every Filipino, including their mental health. The State shall make mental health services more accessible for communities and families in order to effectively and expediently respond to their needs.

SEC. 3. *Hiring of One Mental Health Professional Per City, Municipality, and Academic Institution.* – Section 15 of Republic Act No. 11036 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Section 15. *Mental Health Services at the Community Level.* - Responsive primary mental health services shall be developed and integrated as part of the basic health services at the appropriate level of care, particularly at the city, municipal, and barangay level. The standards of mental health services shall be determined by the DOH in consultation with stakeholders based on current evidences.

“Every local government unit (LGU) and academic institution shall **HIRE OR DESIGNATE AT LEAST ONE (1) MENTAL HEALTH**

PROFESSIONAL AND create their own program in accordance with the general guidelines set by the Philippine Council for Mental Health, created under this Act, in coordination with other stakeholders. LGUs and academic institutions shall coordinate with all concerned government agencies and the private sector for the implementation of the program.

SEC. 4. Within sixty (60) days from the approval of this Act, the Department of Health, in coordination with the Philippine Council for Mental Health, the Department of Interior and Local Government, the Department of Education, the Commission on Higher Education, and the Civil Service Commission shall promulgate the guidelines of this Act.

SEC. 5. *Separability Clause.* – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provisions not affected thereby shall remain in force and effect.

SEC. 6. *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. 7. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette.

Approved,