Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila



NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. **10331**

INTRODUCED BY REP. PM VARGAS

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A BREASTFEEDING CENTER IN BARANGAY KALIGAYAHAN, NOVALICHES, QUEZON CITY

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines is one of the 37 countries that fully implement the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes through its Executive Order No. 51 or the Milk Code. Enacted in 1986, the Milk Code ensures the protection of the breastfeeding culture in the country. However, after more than three decades of the implementation of the Milk Code, studies still show that Filipino mothers have yet to fully understand the benefits of feeding their babies exclusively with breast milk.

According to the United Nations Children's Fund, only 34% of Filipino infants under six months old are exclusively breastfed. Most Filipino mothers opt to use milk formulas due to the alleged inability to produce breast milk and time constraints.

While the Expanded Breastfeeding Promotion Act (Republic Act 10028) has been enacted to make workplaces friendly to breastfeeding mothers, this Act has not been fully implemented and is only rather focused on select private and government institutions.

To further strengthen the country's existing policies on breastfeeding and promote this among mothers, this bill seeks to establish a breastfeeding center in Barangay Kaligayahan, Novaliches, Quezon City. The breastfeeding center shall serve as a haven of information on breastfeeding and shall nourish a sense of community and support among breastfeeding mothers and their families.

By establishing more spaces for breastfeeding mothers at the barangay level, the country can reap the optimum benefits of breastfeeding. It is the hope of this measure to empower mothers while ensuring a healthier generation of newborn Filipinos to come.

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



REP. PM VARGAS
Fifth District, Quezon City

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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 *"Barangay Kaligayahan Breastfeeding Center Act".*

SECTION 2. ***Declaration of Policy***. It is the policy of the State to promote the general welfare of the people. Pursuant to this policy, it shall promote breastfeeding as a means to provide protection against major illnesses in children such as respiratory infections, diarrhea, and malnutrition. The State shall likewise promote breastfeeding as a means to ensure maternal health by protecting against hemorrhage, anemia, and certain cancers as well as facilitating the recovery of mothers from rigors of pregnancy and birth and helping prevent closely spaced pregnancies.

SECTION 3. ***Definition of Terms.*** – For purposes of this Act, the term:

(a) "Breastfeeding" means feeding the child directly from the breast or the expression of milk from the breast of a lactating woman;

(b) "Barangay breastfeeding centers" means breastfeeding centers situated in the barangay that provide breastfeeding services such as information on proper breastfeeding methods and proper use of breast-feeding materials;

(c) "Barangay breastfeeding personnel" authorized health workers assigned by the municipal/city health office to supervise the healthcare facilities in each barangay; and

(d) "Breastfeeding materials" means materials used to aid lactating mothers in breastfeeding which include medicines, vitamins, breast pumps and other useful paraphernalia; materials shall also include breastfeeding milk supplements to be supplied by the barangay breastfeeding centers.

SECTION 4. ***Establishing of Barangay Kaligayahan Breastfeeding Center.*** –The Breastfeeding Center shall be established in the Barangay Health Center of Kaligayahan. The facility shall be integrated within the barangay health center and shall have sufficient space and equipment to facilitate the barangay breastfeeding program.

SECTION 5. ***Campaign for Breastfeeding and its Importance to the Health of Infants and Mothers***. – The barangay breastfeeding personnel shall also conduct periodical campaigns involving information dissemination on the importance of breastfeeding for the health of mothers and infants.

SECTION 6. ***Breastfeeding Equipment and Supplements.*** – Constituents of barangay Kaligayahan shall avail of the services and facilities of barangay breastfeeding centers for free. No payment in any form shall be accepted by the personnel of the breastfeeding centers. They shall, however, be allowed to receive donations in the form of breastfeeding materials and supplements.

SECTION 7. ***Beneficiaries of the Services and Facilities of Breastfeeding Centers.*** **–** All residents of barangay Kaligayahan shall be entitled to avail of the services of the barangay breastfeeding centers.

SECTION 8. ***Funding for Barangay Breastfeeding Centers.*** **–** The amount necessary for the establishment of the breastfeeding center shall be generated from the funds of the Department of Interior and Local Government. The maintenance of the breastfeeding center established shall be the responsibility and shall be charged to Barangay Kaligayahan.

SECTION 9. ***Monitoring and Inspection of Barangay Breastfeeding Centers***. – The Quezon City Health Office having jurisdiction over Barangay Kaligayahan shall monitor and inspect the services and facilities of the breastfeeding center at least twice a year. The City Health Office shall ensure that the breastfeeding center has sufficient equipment and is able to efficiently service the needs of constituents.

SECTION 10. ***Training and Seminars.*** – The barangay breastfeeding personnel shall undergo training and seminars to improve and update their skills in providing breastfeeding services. The Quezon City Health office, in coordination with the barangay officials of Kaligayahan, shall schedule breastfeeding training and seminars at least once a year.

SECTION 11. ***Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Interior and Local Government in coordination with the City Health Office and the officials of Barangay Kaligayahan shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effectivity of this Act.

SECTION 12. ***Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other provisions hereof.

SECTION 13. ***Repealing Clause***. – All laws, decrees, orders, and issuances, or portions thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 14. ***Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,