



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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 11073



Introduced by
HON. ATTY. GERVILLE “JINKY BITRICS” R. LUISTRO

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A COMMUNITY NUTRITION SUPPORT PROGRAM TO
COMBAT MALNUTRITION IN LOW-INCOME COMMUNITIES, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS THE “COMMUNITY NUTRITION SUPPORT PROGRAM ACT”**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Malnutrition is a widespread and persistent issue in low-income communities, with severe and long-term impacts on individuals' health, education, and productivity. Poor nutrition undermines physical and cognitive development in children, weakens immunity, and contributes to chronic health problems. These effects ripple across generations, perpetuating poverty and limiting economic progress for families and communities alike. Addressing malnutrition through a comprehensive, community-based support program is essential to breaking this cycle and improving quality of life for marginalized families.

A study published in *The BMJ* highlights the global burden of malnutrition and its association with socioeconomic disparities. The authors emphasize that malnutrition is both a cause and consequence of poverty, leading to a cycle that hinders economic development and social progress. They advocate for multisectoral policies that tackle the social determinants of health to prevent and reduce inequities in undernutrition and obesity globally.¹

This bill, the **Community Nutrition Support Program Act**, seeks to establish a structured community nutrition support program that will provide food assistance, nutritional education, and resources directly to children and vulnerable families. By doing so, the bill aims to ensure that nutritious food is accessible to all, fostering better health outcomes and enhancing individuals' ability to contribute productively to society.

¹ Perez-Escamilla, R., Bermudez, O., Buccini, G. S., Kumanyika, S., Lutter, C. K., Monsivais, P., & Victora, C. (2018a, June 13). Nutrition disparities and the global burden of malnutrition. *The BMJ*. <https://www.bmj.com/content/361/bmj.k2252>

The **1987 Philippine Constitution** provides a strong foundation for the proposed Community Nutrition Support Program Act. **Article II, Section 15** provides that:

“The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.”

This Act directly supports this mandate by providing food assistance and nutrition education to improve public health outcomes, particularly in low-income communities. Furthermore, **Article XIII, Section 11** emphasizes that:

“...a just, humane, and comprehensive approach to health. The State shall adopt an integrated development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost. There shall be no discrimination against the handicapped, disabled, women, and privileged, sick, elder-priority for the needs of the underprivileged children. The State shall endeavor to provide free medical care to paupers”

The proposed Act aligns with this provision by focusing on comprehensive nutrition support for vulnerable groups, especially children and low-income families.

Republic Act No. 8425, known as the Social Reform and Poverty Alleviation Act, mandates the government to prioritize social reform and poverty alleviation programs, especially for disadvantaged communities. RA 8425 identifies access to adequate food and nutrition as essential for poverty alleviation. The Community Nutrition Support Program is an actionable response to this mandate, establishing a sustainable system for food assistance and nutrition education targeting those most in need.

Republic Act No. 8976, the Philippine Food Fortification Act of 2000, underscores the importance of nutrition for the health and development of the Filipino population, especially children. This Act mandates fortifying staple foods to address nutrient deficiencies in the general population. The proposed Act complements this by ensuring that nutritious food, including fortified products, is provided directly to low-income families and communities where access to fortified foods may be limited.

Republic Act No. 11037, or the Masustansyang Pagkain para sa Batang Pilipino Act, establishes a national feeding program for public school children. However, RA 11037 is limited to school-based feeding and does not cover children not yet in school, nor does it extend to entire low-income communities. The Community Nutrition Support Program Act addresses these limitations by offering nutrition support and education to both school-aged and non-school-aged children, as well as entire families, thereby broadening the scope of food assistance beyond educational institutions.

Republic Act No. 7160, also known as the Local Government Code of 1991, empowers local government units (LGUs) to provide basic services, including health and nutrition programs, to their constituents. The proposed Act builds on this by establishing a national framework for nutrition support, enabling LGUs to collaborate with the Department of Social

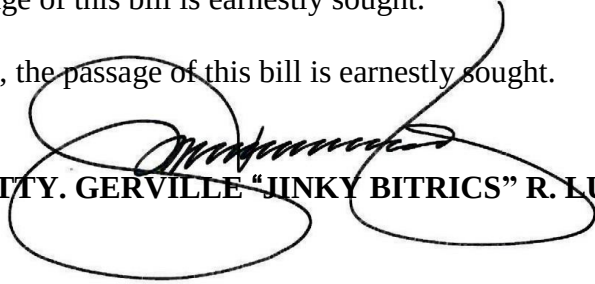
Welfare and Development (DSWD) and the Department of Health (DOH) to implement and sustain community nutrition programs at the local level.

As a signatory to the **United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**², the Philippines is committed to achieving **Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Goal 2: Zero Hunger** and **Goal 3: Good Health and Well-Being**. The proposed Community Nutrition Support Program Act aligns with these goals by addressing food insecurity, malnutrition, and health disparities, particularly in underserved communities.

The **objectives of the bill** are to establish the Community Nutrition Support Program to: (1) provide accessible food assistance to low-income communities, ensuring vulnerable families have regular access to nutritious meals; (2) promote nutritional awareness and education, empowering families with knowledge on healthy eating and meal planning; (3) strengthen community health by reducing malnutrition-related diseases and improving health outcomes in marginalized areas; and (4) equip local government units with the necessary resources and framework to implement nutrition support programs in collaboration with national agencies.

The **program components** include a **Community Food Distribution** system, offering monthly food assistance to eligible low-income families with a focus on balanced, nutrient-rich foods. Partnerships with local suppliers and use of locally grown produce will be encouraged to support local economies. **Nutrition Education and Awareness** initiatives will implement community-based programs to educate families on meal preparation, food safety, and nutritional values, providing workshops and materials to promote healthy lifestyle choices. Additionally, **Mobile Community Kitchens** will be set up in areas with high malnutrition rates, offering free nutritious meals to children, elderly individuals, and other vulnerable groups. This immediate intervention will address acute malnutrition and serve as a model for local nutrition programs. In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

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² Transforming our world: The 2030 agenda for ... (n.d.-b). [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/21252030Agenda for Sustainable Development web.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/21252030Agenda%20for%20Sustainable%20Development%20web.pdf)



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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 "**Community Nutrition Support Program**".

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy* - It is the policy of the State to promote public health and nutrition by ensuring access to adequate and nutritious food for all citizens, particularly in underserved communities.

SECTION 3. *Objectives* - This Act aims to:

- (a) Provide food assistance to low-income communities to combat malnutrition.
- (b) Promote awareness and education on proper nutrition.
- (c) Improve the overall health and productivity of vulnerable populations.

SECTION 4. *Community Food Assistance* - The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), in partnership with local government units, shall distribute monthly food assistance to low-income families, including rice, vegetables, proteins, and other essentials.

SECTION 5. *Nutrition Education Programs* - The Department of Health (DOH) shall implement community-based nutrition education programs, providing practical guidance on meal planning, food preparation, and dietary requirements.

SECTION 6. *Mobile Community Kitchens* - In areas with high rates of malnutrition, DSWD shall establish mobile community kitchens to provide nutritious meals to children, elderly individuals, and pregnant women.

SECTION 7. *Funding* - The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA).

SECTION 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations* - DSWD and DOH shall issue the necessary rules and regulations within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act.

SECTION 9. *Appropriations* - The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged under the current appropriations of DSWD and DOH. Thereafter, regular appropriations for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 10. *Separability Clause* - If any provision of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, such declaration shall not invalidate other parts thereof which shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 11. *Repealing Clause* - All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are hereby amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 12. *Effectivity* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in any newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,