

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 890



Introduced by **Representative FERDINAND L. HERNANDEZ**

**AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE CREATION OF MENTAL HEALTH CENTERS
IN EVERY REGION, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Mental health refers to a person's state of emotional, psychological, and social well-being. It affects how an individual think, feel, behave, and relate to others. A person with a positive and sound mental health is characterized by having a feeling of general satisfaction in life, by being able to cope effectively with stress, work productively, and by being able to maintain a positive relationship with others. On the other hand, persons with poor mental health are more prone to risks of heart disease, weak immunity, chronic pain, and other physical issues. Factors such as stress, anxiety, and depression are often seen with persons with mental health issues and present with insomnia, overeating, and substance abuse.

Mental health is important at every stage of life; and the consequence of failing to address childhood and adolescent mental health conditions extend to adulthood by limiting opportunities leading towards productive lives.

Approximately 11.3% to 11.6% of the Filipino population are affected by mental health disorder. Among children and adolescents, the prevalence of mental health disorder is about 16%. In 2015, approximately 17% of Filipino students aged 13 – 17 had attempted suicide at least once. Depression is the most common cause of suicide, with an estimated 3.3 million Filipinos suffering from this illness.

The creation or establishment of mental health centers in every region that is accessible and affordable to every Filipino is a critical step toward ensuring the well-being and productivity of individuals and communities.

Given the foregoing concerns, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


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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 “Mental Health Center Establishment Act”.

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The State recognizes the need to pursue a Primary Healthcare Approach in the delivery of health services and to conduct the appropriate programs and surveys to ensure that quality healthcare services are made accessible and affordable for everyone.

SEC. 3. *Creation of Mental Health Centers.* – This recognizes the need to make healthcare services, specifically mental health services, readily available. As such, the Department of Health shall establish Mental Health Centers in every region. These centers will be under the supervision of the Department of Health, in collaboration with their respective local government units.

SEC. 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, The Department of Health shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

SEC. 5. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be funded from the current fiscal year’s appropriation for the Department of Health, Thereafter, the necessary amount for the continuous implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 6. *Separability Clause.* – If any part or provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, other provisions thereof which are not affected shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 7. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, rules, and regulations, presidential decrees, letters of instructions and other presidential issuances which are incompatible or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SEC. 8. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least one (1) newspaper of general circulation. It shall also be published online, through the Official Gazette Online, and on the website of the Department of Health.

Approved,