



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

Twentieth Congress  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **1898**



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**Introduced by Representative LORDAN G. SUAN**

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**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"**

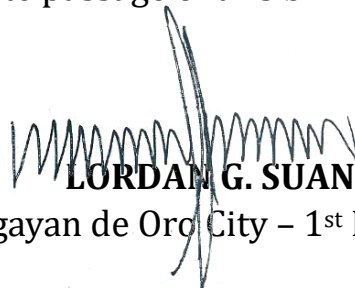
**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This proposed measure mandates every city, municipality, and academic institution to hire or designate at least one mental health professional. This ensures easier access to crucial mental health services within local communities and educational settings.

LGUs and academic institutions will create their own tailored programs based on national guidelines, fostering a collaborative approach with the Department of Health and the Philippine Council for Mental Health.

By building upon the existing "Mental Health Act," this Act strengthens the focus on community-based mental healthcare. This increased accessibility will lead to improved overall well-being, early intervention for mental health challenges, reduced stigma surrounding mental health, and ultimately, stronger Filipino communities.

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



**LORDAN G. SUAN**

Cagayan de Oro City – 1<sup>st</sup> District



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

1       **SECTION 1. Short Title.** — This Act shall be known as the *“One Town,*  
2 *One Mental Health Professional Act.”*

3       **SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy.** — The State affirms the basic right  
4 of all Filipinos to mental health as well the fundamental rights of people who  
5 require mental health services.

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

10       **SECTION 3. Hiring of One Mental Health Professional Per City,**  
11 *Municipality, and Academic Institution.* — Section 15 of Republic Act No.  
12 11036 is hereby amended to read as follows:

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

1 “Every local government unit (LGU) and academic institution  
2 shall **HIRE OR DESIGNATE AT LEAST ONE (1) MENTAL**  
3 **HEALTH PROFESSIONAL AND** create their own program in  
4 accordance with the general guidelines set by the Philippine  
5 Council for Mental Health, created under this Act, in  
6 coordination with other stakeholders. LGUs and academic  
7 institutions shall coordinate with all concerned government  
8 agencies and the private sector for the implementation of the  
9 program.

10 **SECTION 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** — Within sixty (60)  
11 days from the approval of this Act, the Department of Health, in coordination  
12 with the Philippine Council for Mental Health, the Department of Interior  
13 and Local Government, the Department of Education, the Commission on  
14 Higher Education, and the Civil Service Commission shall promulgate the  
15 guidelines of this Act.

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

19 **SECTION 8. *Repealing Clause.*** — All laws, decrees, orders and rules and  
20 regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are  
21 hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

22 **SECTION 9. *Effectivity Clause.*** — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15)  
23 days after its publication in the Official Gazette, in a newspaper of general  
24 circulation, or on a digital platform provided for by law.

*Approved,*