Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **4983**

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Introduced by: **REP. SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill aims to acknowledge the vital service of public school teachers by providing them and their dependents with comprehensive healthcare benefits. It recognizes that their work is physically and mentally demanding and essential for the country's future. The existing healthcare provisions often fall short, leaving teachers to face financial burdens that can lead to loans or delaying critical medical treatment.

To mitigate this challenge, this bill proposes to establish a dedicated Public School Teachers' Healthcare Fund. This fund will be a stable and reliable source of funding, ensuring that teachers and their dependents have access to a wide range of medical services without worrying about exorbitant costs. The benefits will cover inpatient and outpatient care, emergency services, laboratory tests, and prescribed medicines, offering a much-needed safety net.

The bill mandates the DepEd to formulate the necessary rules and regulations and to enter into partnerships with healthcare providers. This ensures the program's efficient rollout and guarantees that beneficiaries can easily access medical services in a network of accredited hospitals and clinics.

The passage of this bill is a crucial step toward upholding the welfare of public school teachers. By providing them with robust healthcare benefits, we are not only protecting their health but also reinforcing their dedication to their profession.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this bill is hereby earnestly sought.

SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.

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HOUSE BILL NO. **4983**

Introduced by: **REP. SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.**

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR HOSPITAL AND HEALTHCARE BENEFITS FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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 "Public School Teachers' Hospital and Healthcare Benefits Act."

Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy* - It is the policy of the State to recognize the vital role of public school teachers in nation-building and to promote their well-being and welfare. To this end, the State shall provide comprehensive hospital and healthcare benefits to all public school teachers and their legitimate dependents, ensuring they have access to quality medical services without undue financial burden.

Sec. 3. *Definition of Terms* - For purposes of this Act, the following terms are defined as follows:

1. **Public School Teacher:** Refers to any person who holds a permanent position as a teacher in any public elementary, secondary, or vocational school under the Department of Education (DepEd) or the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA).
2. **Dependent:** Includes the legal spouse and unmarried children below twenty-one (21) years of age, or any child of any age with a disability who is dependent on the teacher for support.
3. **Hospital and Healthcare Benefits:** Refers to the comprehensive medical coverage that includes, but is not limited to, inpatient and outpatient care, emergency services, laboratory tests, diagnostic procedures, prescribed medicines, and other necessary medical treatments.

Sec. 4. *Coverage* - All public school teachers and their legitimate dependents shall be entitled to full hospital and healthcare benefits as provided for in this

Act. The benefits shall be in addition to those provided by the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) and any other existing government-mandated health programs.

Sec. 5. *Establishment of the Public School Teachers' Healthcare Fund* - A special fund, to be known as the Public School Teachers' Healthcare Fund, shall be established under the DepEd. This fund shall be exclusively used for the payment of hospital and healthcare benefits as stipulated in this Act. The fund shall be managed and administered by a Governing Board composed of representatives from DepEd, the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), and a duly recognized national organization of public school teachers.

Sec. 6. *Funding* - The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be sourced from the following:

1. An annual appropriation from the General Appropriations Act.

2. A mandatory contribution from each public school teacher, the amount of which shall be determined by the Governing Board but shall not exceed one percent (1%) of their monthly basic salary.

3. Donations, grants, and other forms of financial assistance from government and non-governmental organizations.

Sec. 7. *Administration and Implementation* **-** The DepEd, in coordination with the DBM, shall be the lead agency in implementing this Act. They shall:

1. Formulate the rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act within sixty (60) days from its approval.

2. Enter into agreements with public and private hospitals, clinics, and other healthcare providers to ensure the accessibility of medical services for the beneficiaries.

3. Establish a mechanism for the prompt and efficient processing of claims and the payment of benefits.

Sec. 8. *Penalties* **-** Any person who misuses or misappropriates the funds provided for in this Act, or who fraudulently claims benefits, shall be subject to administrative, civil, and criminal penalties as provided for under existing laws.

Sec. 9. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision or part of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions or parts thereof that are not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

Sec. 10. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Sec. 11. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,