

TWENTIETH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Bill No. 5034



**Introduced by REPRESENTATIVES LANI MERCADO-REVILLA,
BRYAN B. REVILLA AND RAMON JOLO REVILLA III**

**AN ACT
MANDATING CITIES, MUNICIPALITIES, AND ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS 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

The Philippines has taken important steps to promote mental health accessibility, particularly with the passage of Republic Act No. 11036, or the *Mental Health Act of 2018*. This law laid the foundation for mental health services in the country. But despite this progress, many Filipinos still lack access to mental health professionals, especially in local communities and schools. Gaps include uneven coverage of primary mental health services, limited human resources, and delays in implementation of community-based mental health programs.¹

This bill seeks to address that gap by mandating every city, municipality, and academic institution to hire or designate at least one mental health professional. This will bring services closer to people, ensure early prevention, and provide support where it is most needed. This is aligned with the *Philippine Council for Mental Health Strategic Framework 2024-2028*, which calls for stronger community-based services, wider access to treatment, and the recognition of mental health as a basic right.²

¹ Rappler. “Is the 2018 Mental Health Act effective? Awareness improved, but more doctors needed.” Published October 10, 2023. Available at: <https://www.rappler.com/life-and-style/health-and-wellness/how-effective-2018-mental-health-act-awareness-doctors-needed/>

² Department of Health (DOH) & World Health Organization Philippines. *DOH, WHO launch Philippine Council for Mental Health Strategic Framework 2024-2028*. October 12, 2023. Available at: <https://www.who.int/philippines/news/detail/12-10-2023-doh--who-launch-philippine-council-for-mental-health-strategic-framework-2024-2028>

Investing in mental health is both a moral and a practical necessity. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), more than 720,000 people die by suicide worldwide every year.³ Many of these cases can be prevented through timely help.⁴ For the Philippines, strengthening mental health services at the grassroots can save lives, improve productivity, and promote the well-being of every Filipino.

Let us grab this chance to prevent needless suffering, protect vulnerable individuals, and promote well-being for all Filipinos.

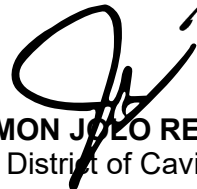
In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is immediately sought.



REP. LANI MERCADO-REVILLA
2nd District of Cavite



REP. BRYAN B. REVILLA
AGIMAT Partylist



REP. RAMON JOSE REVILLA III
1st District of Cavite

³ World Health Organization. *Suicide – Key Facts*. Fact Sheet, March 2025. Available at: <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/suicide>

⁴ World Health Organization. *Suicide*. Health Topics. Available at: <https://www.who.int/health-topics/suicide>

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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 "One Town, One
Mental Health Professional Act."

SEC 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The State recognizes the fundamental
right of every Filipino to mental health and the right of persons requiring
mental health services.

It is hereby declared the policy of the State to ensure the overall well-
being of all Filipinos, by making mental health services more accessible at
the community and institutional levels, thereby enabling timely, responsive,
and effective interventions for individuals, families, and communities.

SEC 3. *Hiring or Designation of Mental Health Professionals.* – Section
15 of Republic Act No. 11036, otherwise known as the “Mental Health Act” is
hereby amended to read as follows:

*“Section 15. Mental Health Services at the Community Level. -
Responsive primary mental health services shall be developed
and integrated as part of the basic health services at the
appropriate level of care, particularly at the city, municipal, and
barangay level. The standards of mental health services shall be*

determined by the DOH in consultation with stakeholders based on current evidences.

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

SEC 4. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Health, in coordination with the Philippine Council for Mental Health, the Department of the Interior and Local Government, the Department of Education, the Commission on Higher Education, and the Civil Service Commission, shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations of this Act.

SEC 5. Separability Clause. – If for any reason, any provision is declared unconstitutional, the other sections or provisions hereof which are not hereby affected shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC 6. Repealing Clause. – All law, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or portions thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC 7. Effectivity Clause. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,