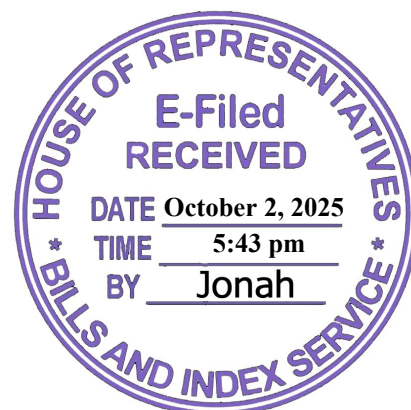


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5113



Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE AUDREY KAY T. ZUBIRI**

**AN ACT PROVIDING COMPREHENSIVE MATERNAL HEALTHCARE
INCLUDING IMMUNIZATION FOR PREGNANT WOMEN**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Maternal health is a critical pillar of public health, directly influencing the well-being of families and the socio-economic development of nations.

In the Philippines, while progress has been made in improving maternal healthcare services, significant challenges remain. The country's maternal mortality rate stands at approximately 78 deaths per 100,000 live births¹, which, although lower than many developing nations, still exceeds the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) target of fewer than 70 deaths per 100,000 live births by 2030². Each year, an estimated 2,400 Filipino women and girls die from preventable causes related to pregnancy and childbirth. These deaths are often linked to inadequate access to skilled care, especially in rural and underserved areas, and to gaps in prenatal and postnatal services³.

According to the Philippine Statistical Authority, while 86% of Filipino women received antenatal care from skilled providers in 2022, this figure has declined from 93% in 2017. Moreover, only 78.4% of pregnant women received tetanus toxoid injections, which are essential for preventing neonatal tetanus. Postnatal care coverage also remains uneven, with only 75.4% of women receiving check-ups within the first two days after birth, and regions

¹ [Maternal Mortality Rate by Country 2025](#)

² SDG Target 3.1 Reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100 000 live births

³ [UNFPA Philippines | Maternal Health](#)

like BARMM reporting significantly lower rates at just 44.5%. These statistics underscore the urgent need for a more robust and inclusive maternal healthcare system⁴.

One of the most effective interventions to address these gaps is maternal immunization. It is a proven strategy to reduce both maternal and neonatal morbidity and mortality. According to World Health Organization (WHO), maternal vaccines given to pregnant women in the second or third trimester have emerged as a promising way forward to address vaccine-preventable diseases, providing protection to the newborn through the transfer of maternal antibodies via the placenta⁵. In low- and middle-income countries, maternal immunization is especially critical due to limited access to healthcare and higher risks of infectious diseases.

This proposed bill, the “Comprehensive Maternal Healthcare and Immunization Act,” aims to establish a national program that offers free immunization for pregnant women, promotes community-based efforts, and strengthens education through healthcare providers. It also calls for upgrading barangay birthing facilities and implementing annual monitoring to improve transparency. By addressing gaps in maternal care and aligning with global standards, the bill seeks to reduce preventable deaths and support healthier pregnancies and families.


AUDREY KAY T. ZUBIRI
Representative, 3rd District of Bukidnon

⁴ [Philippine Statistics Authority](#)

⁵ <https://iris.who.int/bitstream/handle/10665/331942/9789240004016-eng.pdf?sequence=1>

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**AN ACT PROVIDING COMPREHENSIVE MATERNAL HEALTHCARE
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Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

1 **SECTION 1.** This Act shall be known as the "Comprehensive Maternal Healthcare and
2 Immunization Act of 2025".
3

4 **Section 2.** Consistent with the policy that the State shall protect and promote the right
5 to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them and the constitutional
6 declaration that the State shall enhance the welfare and safety of Filipino women, it is hereby
7 declared the policy of the State to ensure the health and well-being of pregnant Filipino women
8 by providing comprehensive maternal healthcare services, including immunization, to reduce
9 maternal and infant mortality rates, promote healthy pregnancies, and contribute to the overall
10 well-being of families and communities.
11

12 **Section 3. National Immunization Program for Pregnant Women.** - There is hereby
13 established a National Immunization Program under the Department of Health (DOH), which
14 shall ensure that pregnant Filipino women and newborns are sufficiently protected from
15 vaccine-preventable diseases such as Influenza, Whooping cough (Pertussis), tetanus, and
16 diphtheria.
17

18 **Section 4. Coverage.** - The immunization provided under this Act shall cover the
19 following vaccine-preventable diseases:

- a. Influenza;
- b. Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Whooping cough (Pertussis); and
- c. Such other vaccines as determined by the DOH in line with evidence-based guidelines and global health recommendations and best practices in maternal and fetal health.

Section 5. Administration of Vaccines. - The vaccines shall be administered for free in any government hospital or health facility, and in communities under its community-based immunization program, and in any private health facility if such is included in the PhilHealth benefit package. The DOH, in collaboration with the Department Interior and Local Government, shall conduct community-based immunization programs for pregnant women.

The DOH shall periodically review and update the list of immunizations for pregnant women in line with evidence-based medical guidelines and global health recommendations.

Section 6. Education and Awareness. - All health care practitioners or healthcare workers who are administering prenatal care shall educate pregnant mothers on the importance of immunization in safeguarding maternal and infant health and well-being, as well as the potential risks and side effects.

Section 7. Access to maternal healthcare. - The DOH, in coordination with local government units (LGUs), shall ensure the availability of comprehensive maternal healthcare services, including but not limited to prenatal care including vaccinations, nutrition support, prenatal screening, counseling, and postnatal care, to all pregnant women.

Section 8. The LGUs in cooperation with the DOH are mandated to upgrade and improve devolved health services and medical facilities to ensure that they are adequately equipped to provide comprehensive maternal healthcare services, including quality emergency obstetric care (EMOC). Every barangay in the country should have a birthing facility to help reduce the risk of maternal and infant deaths.

Section 9. The LGUs shall encourage facility-based delivery and shall ensure the availability and retention of health workers who deliver these health services.

1 **Section 10. Reporting and Monitoring.** - The DOH shall submit to the Office of the
2 President of the Philippines, the Senate Committee on Health and Demography, and the House
3 of Representatives Committee on Health on or before the end of December of every year, or
4 upon the request of any of these said committees of Congress, a report giving a detailed account
5 of the status of the implementation of this Act.

6
7 Health centers and other healthcare facilities shall maintain accurate records of maternal
8 healthcare services provided, including the number of immunizations, prenatal check-ups,
9 deliveries, postpartum visits, and referrals made.

10
11 **Section 11. Appropriations.** -The amount necessary to carry out the implementation
12 of this Act shall be charged to the current year's appropriations of the DOH. Thereafter, such
13 funds as may be necessary for the effective implementation of this Act shall be included in the
14 annual General Appropriations Act.

15
16 **Section 12. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - The DOH shall, in consultation
17 with the National Immunization Committee, issue the implementing rules and regulations
18 within ninety (90) days after the approval of this Act.

19
20 **Section 13. Separability Clause.** - If for any reason, any part or provision of this Act
21 shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions hereof which are not
22 affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

23
24 **Section 14. Effectivity Clause.** -This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
25 complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at newspaper of general circulation.

26
27 *Approved,*