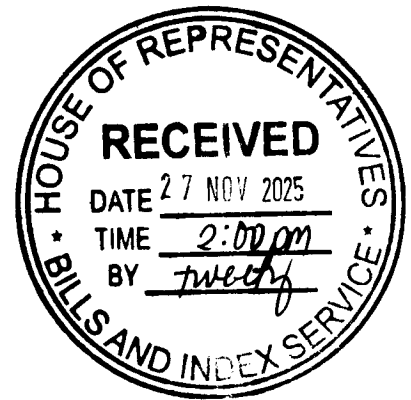


Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 6436



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Introduced by **Rep. ANGELO MARCOS BARBA**  
2<sup>nd</sup> District, Ilocos Norte

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***EXPLANATORY NOTE***

A recent study shows that low salaries, job insecurity, and limited career growth drive many health professionals to seek better opportunities abroad. These combined issues with education and compensation are major obstacles to building a strong and sustainable health workforce,<sup>1</sup> most especially in the Philippines where the current healthcare system is of high importance yet of little concern or attention.

The College of Medicine (COM) of Mariano Marcos State University (MMSU), through the invaluable services of its affiliate faculty members, including its clerk coordinators and department or committee chairs, has significantly contributed to the success of quality medical education and the improvement of healthcare delivery in the region, thereby developing highly competent and compassionate medical professionals. However, the usual support for the Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses (MOOE) where the honorarias for the abovementioned personnel are charged, was not included in the General Appropriations Act (GAA) for 2025.

To maintain exceptional standards for future medical professionals and recognize their significant contributions in the field of medicine, the bill seeks to provide adequate budgetary support to sustain academic excellence and operational efficiency of the MMSU-COM.

This measure does not only recognize the value of our healthcare learners and workers, but most importantly, acknowledge the very need and demand of an improved compensation and operating system commensurate with the relevant contribution of healthcare educators and service providers in State Universities and Colleges (SUCs), such as MMSU-COM.

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<sup>1</sup> Ateneo de Manila. "Ateneo Study Highlights Workforce Hurdles to Universal Health Care in the Philippines." *Ateneo De Manila*, 22 May 2025, <https://www.ateneo.edu/news/2025/05/22/ateneo-study-highlights-workforce-hurdles-universal-health-care-philippines>.

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



**ANGELO MARCOS BARBA**

Republic of the Philippines  
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House Bill No. **6436**

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Introduced by **Rep. ANGELO MARCOS BARBA**  
2<sup>nd</sup> District, Ilocos Norte

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**AN ACT**  
**SUSTAINING THE COLLEGE OF MEDICINE IN MARIANO**  
**MARCOS STATE UNIVERSITY IN THE CITY OF BATAC, ILOCOS**  
**NORTE, TO BE KNOWN AS THE MARIANO MARCOS STATE**  
**UNIVERSITY-COLLEGE OF MEDICINE,**  
**AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

**SECTION 1. *Sustainability.*** - There is hereby enacted the sustainability of the medical school in Mariano Marcos State University (MMSU) in the City of Batac, Ilocos Norte, to be known as the Mariano Marcos State University-College of Medicine (MMSU-COM).

**SECTION 2. *General Mandate.*** - The Mariano Marcos State University-College of Medicine, hereinafter referred to as the "College," is primarily offering a Doctor of Medicine Program, including an Integrated Community and Medicine Program that consists of basic science and clinical courses and focuses on the learner's needs and abilities, guided by proven evidence, and community-based approach. The primary goal of the College shall be to develop and sustain a corps of professional physicians to help strengthen the healthcare system of the country, as well as to respond to the human resource development needs of the Province of Ilocos Norte and Ilocos Region.

The College is also mandated to undertake research and extension services and provide progressive leadership in these crucial areas.

**SECTION 3. *Governance.*** - The governance of the College has been vested in the Board of Regents of MMSU, hereinafter referred to as the "Board," whose powers are defined under Presidential Decree No. 1279, entitled "Merging The Mariano Marcos Memorial College of Science And

Technology And Northern Luzon State College Into A State University To Be Known As The Mariano Marcos State University, Transferring The College Level Courses Of Ilocos Norte Agricultural College And Ilocos Norte College Of Arts And Trades Into Said University, Providing A Charter For The Purpose, And Appropriating Funds Therefor,” and other applicable laws and regulations, unless otherwise provided or amended elsewhere in this Act.

**SECTION 4. *Administration.*** - The administration of the College is vested in the Dean of the College, insofar as may be authorized by its Board.

**SECTION 5. *The College Dean.*** - The College is headed by a Dean who shall be appointed by the Board, subject to the guidelines, qualifications, and standards set by the Board, and upon the recommendation of the President, following a process of consultation with the constituents of the College. The Dean shall render full-time service, serve a term of three (3) years, and may be reappointed to another term.

Within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act, the President of the MMSU shall constitute the search committee for the deanship of the College.

The powers and duties of the Dean of the College, in addition to those specifically provided for in this Act, shall include those usually pertaining to the Office of the Dean of similar state universities and colleges (SUCs) and those delegated by the President.

The salary of the Dean of the College shall be in accordance with Republic Act No. 11466, otherwise known as the “Salary Standardization Law of 2019,” and such other laws amendatory thereto, which may hereinafter be enacted and shall be comparable to that being received by the Deans of similar educational institutions.

In case of vacancy in the Office of the Dean by reason of death, compulsory retirement, resignation, removal for cause, or incapacity of the Dean to perform the functions of the Office, the Board shall, upon the recommendation of the President, designate an Officer-in-Charge of the College, pending the appointment of a new Dean: *Provided*, That the Officer-in-Charge shall serve only during the unexpired portion of the term.

The Dean of the College shall be assisted by a College Secretary, who shall be appointed by the Board.

**SECTION 6. *The Faculty.*** - The Board shall appoint, upon the recommendation of the President of MMSU and the Dean, appoint the faculty members, both full-time and affiliate faculty of the College: *Provided*, That

neither political belief, gender preference, cultural, or community affiliation or ethnic origin, nor religious opinion or affiliation shall be a matter of inquiry in the appointment of faculty members of the College: *Provided, further*, That said appointment shall be subject to the guidelines, qualifications, and standards set by the Board: *Provided, finally*, That no member of the faculty shall teach for or against any particular religious denomination.

**SECTION 7. *Scholarship Programs and Admission.*** - The College shall provide scholarships and other affirmative action programs to assist poor but deserving students who qualify for admission to the College.

Students who have availed themselves of the scholarship program under Republic Act No. 11509, otherwise known as the “Doktor Para Sa Bayan Act,” shall render a return service in accordance with the said law. Students availing themselves of other nationally-funded scholarship programs to complete the Doctor of Medicine degree program under the College may be required to render a return service depending on the contract to be signed between the student and the College.

No student shall be denied admission to the College by reason of gender, religion, cultural, or community affiliation, physical disability, ethnic origin, or any other form of discrimination.

**SECTION 8. *Academic Freedom and Institutional Autonomy.*** - The College shall enjoy academic freedom and institutional autonomy, pursuant to paragraph 2, Section 5, Article XIV of the Constitution.

**SECTION 9. *Authority to Loan or Transfer Apparatus, Equipment, or Supplies and Detail of Personnel.*** - Heads of national government agencies and instrumentalities may, upon the request of the Board through the MMSU President, loan or transfer supplies, apparatus or equipment, and detail personnel to the College: *Provided*, That such loan, transfer, or detail shall not be detrimental to public service.

The personnel to be detailed to the College shall perform such duties as may be deemed required by the Dean of the College, and the time spent for such duties shall be counted as part of the detailed personnel’s regular service.

**SECTION 10. *Assets, Liabilities, and Personnel.*** - All appropriations, assets, both real and personal, personnel, and records of the College, as well as its liabilities or obligations, shall be titled or named after MMSU.

All parcels of land belonging to the Government, as occupied by the College, shall be the property of MMSU, and shall be titled under its name: *Provided*, That the College cease to exist or be abolished or should such aforementioned parcels of land be no longer needed by MMSU, the same shall revert to the City of Batac or to the Republic of the Philippines, as the case may be.

**SECTION 11. *Duty and Tax Exemptions.*** - The importation by the College of medical books and publications, equipment or instruments which are for medical, laboratory, or scientific purposes shall, upon certification by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), be exempt from customs duties in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act No. 10863, otherwise known as the “Customs Modernization and Tariff Act.”

All grants, bequests, endowments, donations, and contributions made to and used actually, directly, and exclusively for educational purposes by the College, shall be exempt from donor’s tax and the same shall be considered as allowable deductions from gross income for purposes of computing the taxable income of the donor in accordance with the provisions of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended.

**SECTION 12. *Compliance with CHED Requirements.*** - The MMSU-COM must adhere to the pertinent policies, standards, and guidelines of CHED. This ensures that its programs meet the highest standards of medical education and institutional performance.

**SECTION 13. *Supplementary Application.*** - The provisions of Republic Act No. 8292, otherwise known as the “Higher Education Modernization Act of 1997,” shall form part of this Act.

**SECTION 14. *Appropriations.*** - The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

**SECTION 15. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - Within sixty (60) days from the approval of this Act, the Board shall, in consultation with the CHED, issue the rules and regulations to fully implement the provisions of this Act.

**SECTION 16. *Separability Clause.*** - If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

**SECTION 17. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, executive orders, rules, and regulations inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**SECTION 18. *Effectivity Clause.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

*Approved,*