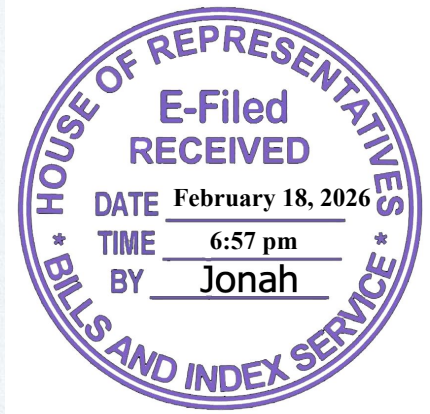


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7891



Introduced by 2nd District of Iloilo Representative
HON. KATHRYN JOYCE F. GORRICETA, M.D.

AN ACT
PROVIDING PHILHEALTH COVERAGE FOR BARANGAY SERVICE POINT OFFICERS, BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS, AND BARANGAY NUTRITION SCHOLARS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

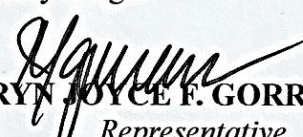
Barangay Service Point Officers (BSPOs), Barangay Health Workers (BHWs), and Barangay Nutrition Scholars (BNS) are the frontline of the government's grassroots health, nutrition, and population programs. They often serve as the first — and sometimes only — point of contact for families requiring medical attention, maternal and childcare, nutrition counseling, and health referrals in barangays.

Recent studies and surveys indicate that while these workers play an indispensable role in public health, they often operate under precarious conditions. Many remain uninsured, receive delayed or insufficient honoraria, and face occupational hazards, including exposure to illnesses and overwork. In some cases, they even shoulder costs out of their own pockets to ensure continuity of care. Nationwide, there are over 250,000 BHWs alone, mostly women, whose dedication sustains critical health services in remote and underserved communities.

Providing PhilHealth coverage to BSPOs, BHWs, and BNSs under this proposed measure ensures that these essential workers are protected from financial risk and have access to health services for themselves, strengthening the delivery of primary care. Insurance coverage acknowledges their contribution, incentivizes sustained engagement, and supports the broader goals of the Universal Health Care Act (RA 11223), which emphasizes the vital role of community-based health providers in achieving equitable and effective healthcare delivery.

By institutionalizing PhilHealth coverage, this bill safeguards the welfare of frontline barangay workers while enabling them to continue serving their communities effectively. It is a necessary step to protect those who protect the health and well-being of the Filipino people.

The immediate passage of this measure is earnestly sought.


KATHRYN JOYCE F. GORRICETA, M.D.

Representative
2nd District of Iloilo

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HON. KATHRYN JOYCE F. GORRICETA, M.D.

AN ACT
PROVIDING PHILHEALTH COVERAGE TO BARANGAY FRONTLINE
HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICE WORKERS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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 “*Barangay Frontline Workers PhilHealth Coverage Act.*”

SEC. 2. **Declaration of Policy.** – It is the policy of the State to recognize the essential role of BSPOs, BHWs, and BNSs in delivering vital health, nutrition, and population services to communities and to ensure they have adequate health insurance coverage to protect their well-being while serving the public.

SEC. 3. **PhilHealth Coverage.** – All duly-accredited BSPOs, BHWs, and BNSs in every barangay of the country shall be covered under the National Health Insurance Program (NHIP) administered by the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth).

SEC. 4. **Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).** – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the implementing agency, in coordination with relevant government offices and stakeholders, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act. The IRR shall provide guidance on the procedures for enrollment, coverage, or compliance under this Act; establish guidelines for benefits, claims processing, or utilization as applicable; and set up monitoring and reporting mechanisms to ensure proper implementation, transparency, and accountability.

SEC. 5. **Appropriations.** – The amount necessary to carry out the initial implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall likewise be included in the annual budget. Additional funding may be sourced from any lawful revenues as determined by the implementing agency.

SEC. 6. **Separability Clause.** – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 7. ***Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules, and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SEC. 8. ***Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,