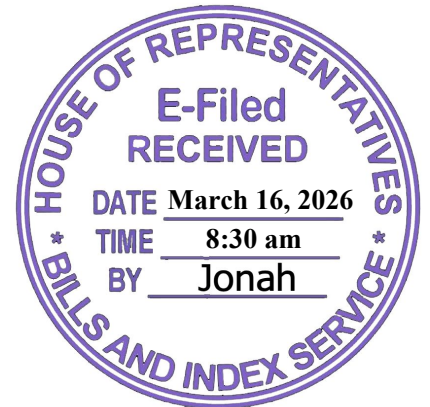




Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8504



Introduced by Representative Ann Matibag

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to grant citizenship to Sr. Maria Teresa “Vera” Casali Ravasio in deference to her humanitarian & charitable good works, conducted over 37 years in the Philippines, devoted to the poor and marginalized in the spheres of poverty amelioration, education, healthcare and social services.

An Italian citizen by birth, Sr. Vera, as fondly called by many, has been a bonafide residence of San Pedro, Laguna, since her arrival to the Philippines in 1985.

Upon graduation from high school in 1969, she entered convent as a novitiate, earning a Diploma in Elementary Education 7 yrs later. She taught elementary school in Cittadini, Bergamo, Italy, for five years. Her missionary works commenced in India, lasting two years prior to her arrival in the Philippines, numbered among a group of 7 Indian Ursuline sister nuns.

The Ursuline Sisters of St. Jerome in Somasca, is a religious congregation of women founded in Somasca, Italy, in 1826 by Caterina Cittadini and her sister Giuditta. The congregation was inspired by and informed by the life and work of St. Jerome Emiliani, a 15th-century priest who founded the Somascan Fathers.

The order was invited to the Philippines in 1929 by the Bishop of San Pablo, Msgr. Teofilo Camomot. He was a friend of the congregation's founder, Mother Caterina Cittadini, impressed by their work in Italy and believed the

order could make a significant contribution to the Church and the Filipino people.

The first group of Ursuline Sisters, pioneered by Sr. Vera, arrived in the Philippines in 1929 and opened their first convent in the town of Sta. Cruz, commencing work in education, healthcare, and social services.

The sisters have made a significant contribution to the Philippines over the past 90 years. They have educated generations of young people, cared for the sick and elderly, and promoted social justice. They are considered a valuable part of the Catholic Church and the Philippine community.

Today, the Ursuline Sisters of St. Jerome in Somasca have a presence in 11 dioceses in the Philippines.

As Local Superior, Sr. Vera today oversees 16 schools, 3 hospitals, 2 orphanages, and a number of other social service programs. The congregation has about 200 members, most of whom are Filipino. The order services approximately 2,600 families growing year by year.

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


ANN MATIBAG



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Twentieth Congress
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HOUSE BILL NO. **8504**

Introduced by Representative Ann Matibag

1 **AN ACT**
2 **GRANTING FILIPINO CITIZENSHIP TO SR. MARIA TERESA**
3 **CASALI RAVASIO WITH ALL RIGHTS, PRIVILEGES AND**
4 **PREROGATIVES APPURTENANT THERETO**

5
6 *Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of the Representatives of the*
7 *Philippines in Congress assembled:*
8

9 SECTION 1. Sr. Teresa Casali Ravasio is hereby granted Philippine
10 citizenship with all the rights, privileges and prerogatives appurtenant thereto.

11 SECTION 2. After taking and registration of the oath of allegiance to
12 the Republic of the Philippines, Sr. Teresa Casali Ravasio shall enter into the
13 full enjoyment of Philippine citizenship.

14 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
15 publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) national newspapers of general
16 circulation.

17 Approved,