

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 10984



INTRODUCED BY REP. PATRICK MICHAEL “PM” D. VARGAS

AN ACT
PROVIDING A HEALTH CARE PROGRAM FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL
TEACHERS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines continues to face significant learning challenges. In the latest available PISA 2022 results, Filipino 15-year-old students ranked 76th out of 81 countries in reading, 75th in mathematics, and 79th in science. Only 24 percent reached the minimum reading proficiency level, while only 16 percent reached the minimum mathematics proficiency level and 23 percent reached the minimum science proficiency level.¹

The World Bank’s 2024 Learning Poverty Brief likewise reported that 91 percent of Filipino children of late-primary age were not proficient in reading, adjusted for those out of school. Approximately 90 percent of students also failed to achieve minimum reading proficiency by the end of primary school.

These results underscore the need to strengthen the capacity and well-being of public school teachers, who play a central role in improving student learning outcomes. While reforms on compensation, training, and professional development are important, ensuring that teachers have reliable access to quality health care is equally necessary.

Although the Universal Health Care Act has expanded health-insurance coverage, gaps in access and implementation remain. This bill therefore seeks to provide public school teachers with Healthcare Maintenance Organization

¹ Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. 2023

coverage to supplement existing government health benefits and reduce their out-of-pocket medical expenses.

Investing in teachers' physical and mental health will help promote teacher welfare, reduce work-related health burdens, and support a more effective and resilient public education system.

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



REP. PATRICK MICHAEL "PM" D. VARGAS

Fifth District, Quezon City

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “*Health Care for Public School Teachers Act.*”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policies.* – The State shall ensure our citizens’ access to quality and affordable health care. In particular, it shall provide public school teachers with access to comprehensive, quality, cost-effective, preventive, and rehabilitative health services.

SECTION 3. *Coverage.* – This Act shall cover all public school teachers under the Department of Education.

SECTION 4. *Healthcare Maintenance.* The Department of Education shall, through competitive bidding which may be done nationally or regionally, procure a contract with a Healthcare Maintenance Organization which is duly recognized and accepted by hospitals all over the country.

SECTION 5. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the immediate implementation of the provisions of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act for the year following the approval of this Act.

SECTION 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Secretary of the Department of Education shall formulate the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) for the effective implementation of this Act within thirty (30) days from the effectivity of this Act.

SECTION 7. *Separability Clause.* – If any portion or provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 8. *Repealing Clause.* – All provisions of laws, orders, decrees, including rules and regulations inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed and/or modified accordingly.

SECTION 9. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,