

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
*First Regular Session* )

'04 SEP 23 P5:01

SENATE  
1804

S.B. No. \_\_\_\_\_

RECEIVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

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Introduced by **SENATOR COMPAÑERA PIA S. CAYETANO**

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### EXPLANATORY NOTE

The so-called Filipino Comfort Women suffered tremendously during their ordeal in the hands of the Japanese Imperial Army. They suffered more when they courageously came out in the open to tell the whole world about the dastardly acts committed against them. The Government, however, chose to remain silent about their plight and simply waited for the sought-after recognition and compensation from the Japanese Government, a foreign state over which we have neither influence nor control.

This Bill seeks to recognize the fate of these Comfort Women and alleviate their suffering through financial and health insurance assistance from the Government.

For these reasons, approval of this Bill is urgently sought.

*Pia S. Cayetano*  
**COMPAÑERA PIA S. CAYETANO**  
Senator

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**AN ACT  
PROVIDING FOR PENSION AND HEALTH BENEFITS TO COMFORT  
WOMEN, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES.**

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

**Section 1. – Title.** – This Act shall be known as **The Comfort Women  
Compensation and Benefit Act of 2004.**

**Section 2. – Definition of Terms. –**

- a. **“Comfort Women”** shall mean Filipino Women who were made sex slaves by the Japanese Occupation Army during World War II as may be determined by the National Commission on Women.
- b. **“NCRFW”** shall mean the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women.
- c. **“Department”** shall mean the Department of Social Welfare and Development.
- d. **“PVAO”** shall mean the Philippines Veterans Affairs Office.
- e. **“Philhealth”** shall mean the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation.

**Section 3. Determination of Comfort Women.** – The NCRFW is hereby tasked to determine the authenticity of the claims and identities of Comfort Women with the assistance of the various accredited cause-oriented women's groups. Applications for the compensation and benefits herein provided for must be filed within two (2) years from the effectivity of this Act, otherwise the same shall forever be barred.

**Section 4. Responsibility of the Department.** – The Department shall formulate a program for the proper counseling and guidance of Comfort Women taking into consideration not only their ordeal in the hands of the Japanese Occupational Army but more so the pain and suffering of retelling them in public.

**Section 5. Duty of Philhealth.** – The Philhealth is hereby mandated to provide free full medical insurance to Comfort Women as may be determined by the NCRFW.

**Section 6. Responsibility of PVAO.** – The PVAO shall provide for the monthly pension of Comfort Women in the amount of Three Thousand Pesos (Php3,000.00).

**Section 7. Fund.** – An initial fund in the amount of Ten Million Pesos (Php10,000,000.00) is hereby allocated for the processing of applications and payment of pensions and insurance of Comfort Women identified by the NCRFW. Thereafter, the cost of the pensions and insurance shall be included in the budget of the PVAO and Philhealth under the General Appropriation Act.

**SECTION. 8. Separability Clause.**- If any part, section, or provision of this Act shall be held invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions shall not be affected thereby.

**SECTION. 9. Repealing Clause.**- All other acts, laws, executive orders, presidential issuances, rules and regulations or any part thereof which are inconsistent herewith are hereby deemed repealed or modified accordingly.

**SECTION. 10. Effectivity.** - The provisions of this Act shall take effect fifteen days from its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

**Approved.**