

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

5 APR -4 P1:17

SENATE
S. B. NO. 1972

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Introduced by SENATOR EDGARDO J. ANGARA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill exemplifies the affirmed objective of Republic Act 2305 or the Magna Carta of Public Health Workers *i.e.*, "to promote and improve the social and economic well-being of the health workers, their living and working conditions and terms of employment."

Specifically, it seeks to re-establish May 7 of each year as "Health Workers' Day" to give due respect and appreciation to the services of the main pillars of the country's health care system, **our health workers**. They are our doctors, nurses, midwives, dentists, technicians, nutritionists, therapists, aides, and all other medical and allied professionals and support services personnel who work vigorously in our hospitals, clinics, barangay health centers and health care units in rural and urban areas.

Although Proclamation No. 96 (*Aquino, 1987*) declared May 7 of said year and every year thereafter as "Health Workers' Day," its commemoration is virtually non-existent to date, and along with it, the subject of its celebration. Thus, the bill.

Likewise, it is hoped that the annual public observance of the "Health Workers' Day" will draw awareness to the plight of our health sector and consequently, underscore the State's responsibility to allot sufficient budget priority on health and to improve the living and working conditions of our health workers.

Approval of this measure, therefore, is earnestly sought.


EDGARDO J. ANGARA
Senator

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AN ACT DECLARING MAY 7 OF EVERY YEAR
AS "HEALTH WORKERS' DAY"

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

1 **SECTION 1.** This Act shall be known as the "**Health Workers' Day Act.**"

2 **SECTION 2.** To give due recognition to the important role and contributions
3 of the health workers who provide vital health services to our people and to
4 promote their rights and welfare and enhance their sense of worth and dignity, May
5 7 of every year is hereby declared as a special working holiday to be known as
6 "Health Workers' Day."

7 **SECTION 3.** For purposes of this Act, the term "**health workers**" shall cover
8 all persons engaged in health and health-related services, including medical and
9 allied professionals and support services personnel, who work in hospitals, sanitarium,
10 health centers, clinics and other health-related establishments in the public and
11 private sectors.

12 **SECTION 4.** To ensure the meaningful observance of the holiday as herein
13 declared, all heads of government health facilities, offices and instrumentalities,
14 including government-owned and controlled hospitals as well as local government
15 health units, and employers in the private sector, shall encourage and afford
16 sufficient time and opportunities for their employees to engage and participate in
17 any activity to mark Health Workers' Day.

18 **SECTION 5.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its
19 publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general
20 circulation.

21 *Approved,*