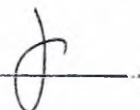


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S. B. No. 303

RECEIVED BY: _____



INTRODUCED BY SENATOR ALAN PETER "COMPAÑERO" S. CAYETANO

AN ACT
MANDATING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF HEALTH CENTERS IN ALL BARANGAYS,
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The greatest God-given asset of any country is its people. Building a great nation requires healthy citizens. Accordingly, the government must be able to provide equitable and efficient access to health services starting at the base level of the community, the barangay.

There is a regional disparity regarding the distribution of healthcare facilities in which it is highly concentrated in urban areas, and thus, unable to cater to the needs of those people who are living in rural and far-flung areas. As of 2020, the Philippines has a total number of 42,026 barangays; however, the total number of barangay healthcare centers (BHCs) is only 23,280. This means that 18,766 or 47.2% of barangays do not have BHCs.¹ The lack of barangay health centers is a reflection of how access to healthcare in the country remains highly inequitable due to governance-associated challenges such as lack of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) interventions, accessibility of primary healthcare, and poor welfare of healthcare workers.

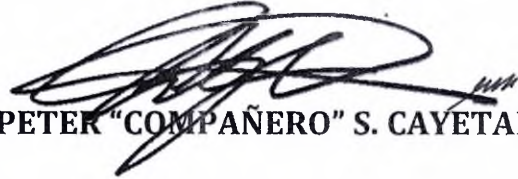
The City of Taguig continues to commit to making healthcare facilities accessible to citizens with thirty-one (31) Philhealth accredited BHCs for our twenty-eight (28) barangays. The medical personnel, especially Barangay Health Workers stationed in these facilities, are formally employed, receive regular salary, and enjoy numerous benefits, including performance incentive bonuses, training, overtime pay, and hazard pay, among others.

This measure seeks to help build a world class primary health care system throughout the country by mandating every barangay in the Philippines to establish a Barangay Health Center in three (3) years' time where it must be equipped with the following: (a) a health care center/ station; (b) healthcare workers, doctors, and medical staff; (c) and medicine, diagnostic equipment, and other healthcare facilities. In addition, Barangay Health Center personnel shall be made to conduct home visitations, to periodically determine the public health concerns in the community,

¹ https://www.dilg.gov.ph/PDF_File/factsfigures/dilg-facts-figures-2020124_c3876744b4.pdf

monitor patients, provide medical care when needed, and to help disseminate health-related information.

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


A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Alan Peter S. Cayetano', written in a cursive style.

ALAN PETER "COMPAÑERO" S. CAYETANO

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**AN ACT
MANDATING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF HEALTH CENTERS IN ALL BARANGAYS,
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the *"Health Centers in All*
2 *Barangays Act"*.

3
4 **SECTION 2. Statement of Policy.** – The State shall provide equitable and
5 efficient access to health services starting at the base level of the community, the
6 barangay. As such, it should be emphasized that all barangays must be equipped with
7 the following: (a) a health care center/ station; (b) healthcare workers, doctors, and
8 medical staff; (c) and medicine, diagnostic equipment, and other healthcare tools.

9
10 The State shall streamline healthcare services, decongest hospitals and lessen
11 the workload of its healthcare workers, and address ongoing and long-term
12 community health needs by building the capacity of the community health worker
13 workforce and health facilities. The State also endeavors to educate the community
14 members, including regarding effective strategies to promote healthy behaviors.

15
16 **SECTION 3. Barangay Health Centers.** – Healthcare that is based on practical,
17 scientifically-sound, and socially acceptable methods and technology should be made
18 universally accessible to individuals and families at the community level. Towards
19 this end, every barangay in the Philippines is hereby mandated to establish a
20 Barangay Health Center.

21
22 The province, city or municipality concerned shall provide financial assistance
23 for the establishment, maintenance and operation of the Barangay Health Centers
24 within their respective localities.

25
26 The Sangguniang Barangay may call upon the public health sector and private
27 volunteers, who are duly-licensed medical professionals, and utilize them to assist in
28 the provision of primary healthcare and provide consultative services for medical
29 needs of the members of the community.

1
2 **SECTION 4. Primary Health Program.** – Barangay Health Centers shall
3 implement a Primary Healthcare program in accordance with guidelines to be set by
4 the Department of Health (DOH). Among others, the DOH shall:

- 5
6 a) Formulate the criteria for the selection, qualifications, and training of Barangay
7 Health Workers and the standards for the implementation of the primary
8 healthcare program in the barangay; and,
9
10 b) Coordinate activities of the barangay, governmental agencies, and
11 nongovernment organizations in order that their services may be fully utilized
12 for the attainment of the program goals.
13

14 **SECTION 5. Barangay Health Workers and Medical Equipment.** – Each
15 Barangay Health Center shall have at least one (1) doctor, at least one (1) nurse, at
16 least one (1) dentist, and a sufficient number of medical assistants as may be
17 determined by the guidelines set by the DOH based on the population of the barangay
18 and its proximity to existing public health facilities. Priority shall be given to remote
19 areas and cities or municipalities with low percentage of health facilities. As far as
20 practicable, Barangay Health Center personnel shall conduct home visits, to
21 periodically determine the public health concerns in the community as well as to
22 provide medical care, and monitor patients.
23

24 To enable the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and the Local
25 Government Units to project the need for healthcare professionals and encourage the
26 youth to pursue health-related courses, the DOH shall regularly submit to the CHED
27 and LGUs the number of Barangay Health Workers and vacancies throughout the
28 country.
29

30 The implementing agencies of this Act shall ensure that all barangays shall have
31 a Barangay Health Center equipped with appropriate healthcare facilities within
32 three (3) years from the implementation of this Act.
33

34 **SECTION 6. Appropriations.** – The Secretary of the DOH shall immediately
35 include in the Department's program the implementation of this Act, the funding of
36 which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.
37

38 **SECTION 7. Report to Congress.** – One (1) year after the implementation of
39 this Act, the Secretary of the Department of Health jointly with the Secretary of the
40 Department of the Interior and Local Government shall submit a written report to
41 Congress containing the actions taken to implement the provisions of this Act.
42

43 **SECTION 8. Separability Clause.** – If any part or provision of this Act is
44 declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other parts hereof not affected thereby shall
45 remain valid.
46

47 **SECTION 9. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, acts, presidential decrees, executive
48 orders, administrative orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with or contrary to
49 the provisions of this Act are deemed amended, modified or repealed accordingly.
50

1 **SECTION 10. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
2 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,