


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



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SENATE
S. No. 1416

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator MARK A. VILLAR

AN ACT
SAFEGUARDING THE HEALTH OF FILIPINO MOTHERS AT THE TIME OF
THEIR CHILDBIRTH, PROVIDING PROTECTIVE MECHANISM THEREFOR
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to implement reasonable, comprehensive, and effective health care liability reforms designed to improve the availability of health care services before, during and after mothers give birth to her child. Given the high cost of medical accommodation and health insurance, there is not enough obstetrical service most especially in public hospitals. Women, most especially in far-flung provinces, have difficulty in finding available doctors and have to wait longer to secure appointments. In addition, they have less access to maternal-fetal medicine specialists, physicians with the most experience and training in the care of women with high-risk pregnancies, and have less access to well-equipped hospitals, lying-in and clinics attending to pregnant women during giving of birth.

Based on the latest data from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), direct obstetric deaths posted the highest growth rate among the causes of maternal death in the first semester of this year. Accordingly, some 468 Filipinos were killed by "other direct obstetric deaths" representing a 10.1-percent increase from the 425 posted in the same period last year.

Once this bill is enacted into law, the following measures will be implemented:

1. The local government units are mandated to upgrade and improve devolved health services and medical facilities to provide quality EMOC.
2. The LGUs shall encourage facility-based delivery among all women and shall retain health workers, e.g., medical doctors, nurses, and midwives, who deliver these health services. For the purpose, the local health clinics and health offices as well as the satellite offices of the Department of Health are hereby mandated to be of 24-hour assistance to Filipino mothers.

3. The local government units are empowered to provide and formulate programs that will promote the increase in salaries and incentives of health workers.

For this purpose, early passage of this bill is earnestly sought.




MARK A. VILLAR

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

1 Section 1. Consistent with the State policy that shall protect the State and
2 promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among
3 them and the constitutional declaration that the State shall enhance the welfare and
4 safety of women, it is hereby declared to be the policy of the State to provide
5 maximum safeguarding of Filipino mothers at the time of their childbirths.

6 Sec. 2. No maternal hospital, clinic, health center, lying-in, midwifery facilities
7 or similar center, public or private, shall deny or refuse to assist, admit, or entry of a
8 mother at the time of childbirth. They shall ensure the highest safety mechanism to
9 prevent child switching, child trafficking or the commission of any crime that may
10 lead to the endangering of the lives of both mother and child.

11 Sec. 3. The respective local government units (LGUs) in cooperation with the
12 Department of Health (DOH) are mandated to upgrade and improve devolved health
13 services and medical facilities to provide quality emergency obstetric care (EMOC).

14 Sec. 4. The LGUs shall encourage facility-based delivery among all women
15 and shall retain health workers, e.g., medical, doctors, nurses, and midwives, who
16 deliver these health services.

1 The local health clinics and health offices as well as the satellite offices of the
2 DOH are hereby encouraged to be of 24-hour assistance to Filipino mothers.

3 The LGUs are empowered to provide and formulate programs that will
4 promote the increase in salaries and incentives of health workers.

5 Sec. 5. To complement the provisions of this Act, the DOH in coordination
6 with the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) and the relevant organization of
7 midwives shall professionalize further the practice of midwifery in the country and
8 empower them to be the key health care professional in providing care to mothers
9 and newborns and redwing maternal mortality and newborn mortality rates.

10 Sec. 6. The DOH shall issue the necessary rules and regulations to implement
11 the provisions of this Act.

12 Sec. 7. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete
13 publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two newspaper of general circulation,
14 whichever comes earlier.

Approved,