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SENATE

S. B. No. 143

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Introduced by SENATOR PIA S. CAYETANO

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EXPLANATORY NOTE

Barangay Health Workers (BHWs) are volunteers accredited by the Local Health Board who have been trained to provide primary health care services in the community in accordance with the guidelines promulgated by the Department of Health. They are front liners in the delivery of primary health care services in the grassroots level.

Recognizing the active role of the BHWs as frontliners in primary health care, Republic Act No. 7883 otherwise known as the Magna Carta for BHWs was passed in 1995. The law provides incentives and benefits to all accredited BHWs who are actively and regularly performing their duties such as hazard and subsistence allowance, educational programs, scholarships, civil service eligibility, free legal services and preferential access to loan. However, since BHWs are not compulsory members of both the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PHILHEALTH) and the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), this in effect, denies our BHWS of the basic health, retirement, disability and funeral benefits that they truly deserve.

Considering the contribution and critical role that our BHWs play in society, this bill seeks to make the membership of all accredited BHWs to PHILHEALTH and GSIS compulsory thereby expanding and increasing the benefits they are currently receiving.

For the BHWs who devotedly and tirelessly provide primary health care service to the Filipino people, the approval of this Bill is urgently sought.


  
SENATOR PIA S. CAYETANO

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**AN ACT  
GRANTING COMPULSORY COVERAGE TO ACCREDITED BARANGAY HEALTH  
WORKERS IN THE NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM AND THE  
GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE  
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7883, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

1           **SECTION 1.** Section 6 of Republic Act No. 7883, otherwise known as the  
2 "Barangay Health Workers' Benefits and Incentives Act of 1995," is hereby amended by  
3 adding new subsections to read as follows:

4  
5           "SEC. 6. *Incentives and Benefits.* – x x x

6  
7           **"(F) PHILHEALTH COMPULSORY COVERAGE. – ALL**  
8 **BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS SHALL**  
9 **BE ENROLLED IN THE NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM**  
10 **TO ENABLE THEM TO RECEIVE AND AVAIL OF AN ADEQUATE**  
11 **PACKAGE OF PERSONAL HEALTH SERVICES INCLUDING BUT NOT**  
12 **LIMITED TO IN-PATIENT HOSPITAL CARE, OUT-PATIENT CARE,**  
13 **EMERGENCY AND TRANSFER SERVICES, AND ALSO OTHER**  
14 **SUPPLEMENTARY HEALTH BENEFITS, AS MAY BE DEFINED BY**  
15 **THE PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION (PHIC) AND**  
16 **THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT (LGU) WHERE THEY RENDER**  
17 **SERVICES.**

18  
19           **"(G) GSIS COMPULSORY COVERAGE. – ALL BARANGAY**  
20 **HEALTH WORKERS SHALL BE ENROLLED IN THE GOVERNMENT**  
21 **SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM TO ENABLE THEM TO RECEIVE AND**  
22 **AVAIL OF THE RETIREMENT, DISABILITY AND FUNERAL BENEFITS**  
23 **AND ALSO OTHER SUPPLEMENTARY BENEFITS, AS MAY BE**  
24 **DEFINED BY THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM.**

1           **SEC. 2.** The premium contribution and thereafter, the standard monthly  
2 contributions, shall be borne by the LGU concerned; *Provided*, That the National  
3 Government shall subsidize fifty percent (50%) of the contributions of fourth, fifth and  
4 sixth class municipalities.

5           Upon the passage of this Act, the barangay health workers shall be automatically  
6 entitled to the full enjoyment and availment of essential health services, as contained in  
7 Republic Act No. 7875 or the National Health Insurance Act, and the retirement,  
8 disability and burial benefits and other supplemental benefits, as may be defined by  
9 Republic Act No. 8391 or The Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997.

10          Barangay health workers shall not be required to pay monthly contributions and  
11 all other fees or charges for them to be entitled to these benefits.

12  
13          **SEC. 3. Oversight Provision.** – Congress shall conduct a regular review of this  
14 program which shall primarily evaluate its implementation with regard to its impact and  
15 accomplishments. Such review shall be jointly undertaken by the appropriate  
16 committees in the Senate and the House of Representatives which have legislative  
17 jurisdiction over this program.

18  
19          **SEC. 4. Rules and Regulations.** – The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation  
20 and the Government Service Insurance System, in consultation and coordination with  
21 the appropriate government agencies, such as, but not limited to, the Department of  
22 Health, Department of the Interior and Local Government, Department of Budget and  
23 Management, and the leagues of governors, vice governors, mayors, and barangay  
24 captains of the Philippines, shall formulate within two hundred (200) days the rules and  
25 regulations necessary to implement this Act.

26  
27          **SEC. 5. Separability Clause.** – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid, the  
28 remainder or any of the provisions hereof not affected thereby shall remain in force and  
29 effect.

30  
31          **SEC. 6. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, presidential  
32 issuances and other administrative rules and regulations or parts thereof which are  
33 inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

34  
35          **SEC. 7. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
36 publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

37  
38          *Approved,*

39