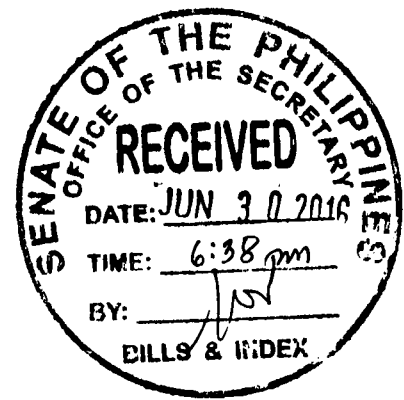


SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
*First Regular Session* )

SENATE  
S. B. No. 214



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INTRODUCED BY SENATOR ANA THERESIA "RISA" HONTIVEROS BARAQUEL

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**An Act Creating the Community Health Worker Education and Training Program, Increasing Compensation and Other Benefits for Barangay Health Workers (BHWs), Appropriating Funds Therefor and for other purposes**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Article XIII, Section 11 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution lays down the national health policy in this wise: "The State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at an affordable cost."


Barangay Health Workers (BHWs) play a critical part of this health and human development agenda, providing front-line health services at the community level and acting as health educators, community organizers and primary care providers within their local villages. Given the dearth of doctors and nurses in rural areas, BHWs are often the first line of defense against illnesses, the information source for maternal and neonatal care as well as family planning, and also the first responders during periods of calamity.

According to latest available data, there are 219,433 active BHWs in the country spread out across 42,028 barangays. While some barangays have a sufficient number of BHWs, the barangays in far-flung rural areas have only one or two volunteers – toiling every day to provide for the health needs of the barangay residents. Yet, these BHWs are considered only volunteers, and the law does not prescribe a fixed allowance for them. Nor do they enjoy security of tenure or retirement benefits.

This Act seeks to correct that not only by prescribing a fixed monthly compensation for BHWs, but also by introducing a Community Health Worker Education and Training Program that will provide training and development programs for BHWs to develop their skills and acquire knowledge. The aim of this Act is two-fold: to hone and develop deserving BHWs into skilled medical professionals, and second, to ensure a continuous supply of grassroots public health workers to respond to the health needs of their communities.

The immediate passage of this measure is earnestly sought.

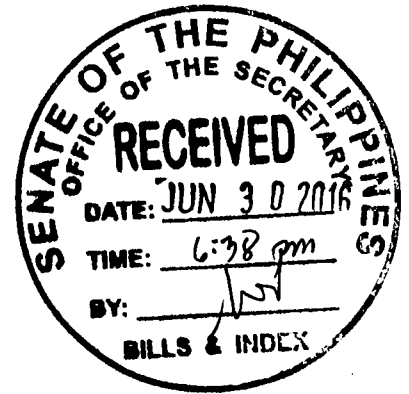
The passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
ANA THERESIA "RISA" HONTIVEROS BARAQUEL  
*Senator*

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

SENATE

S. B. No. 214



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INTRODUCED BY SENATOR ANA THERESIA "RISA" HONTIVEROS  
BARAQUEL

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**An Act Creating the Community Health Worker Education and Training Program, Increasing Compensation and Other Benefits for Barangay Health Workers (BHW), Appropriating Funds Therefor and for other purposes**

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

- 1 **Section 1. Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “Bibong BHW Act of 2016”.
- 2
- 3 **Section 2. Declaration of Principles.** – It is the policy of the State to adopt an
- 4 integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to
- 5 make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at
- 6 affordable cost. In furtherance of this, the State shall endeavor to provide accessible and
- 7 quality health services through barangay health workers as front-liners in community-
- 8 based health interventions.
- 9
- 10 **Section 3. Coverage.** - The provisions of this Act shall be applicable to all barangay
- 11 health workers under Republic Act No. 7883. For the purposes of this Act, the term
- 12 barangay health worker shall refer to a person who has undergone training program
- 13 under any accredited government or non-government organization primarily to render
- 14 health care services, pursuant to Republic Act No. 7883.
- 15
- 16 **Section 4. Six-month Education and Training Program for Community-based**
- 17 **Health Workers.** – The Department of Health, in coordination with the University of
- 18 the Philippines, shall develop a competency-based education and training curriculum for
- 19 all barangay health workers. The curriculum shall train the community health workers as
- 20 healthcare provider, community organizer, health service manager, trainer and educator,
- 21 and researcher. It shall include basic orientation and training on health programs and
- 22 institutionalized health service delivery system, primary healthcare, basic community
- 23 organizing, local health research, social health insurance navigation, basic local resource
- 24 generation and mobilization, training needs analysis, basic report writing and
- 25 communication skills, and program planning and development. Courses on basic dental

1 care, reproductive health, STI and HIV/AIDS prevention, nutrition, physical therapy,  
2 basic life support, traditional and herbal medicine and reflexology shall also be offered.  
3 Such program shall be credited as units earned in higher education institutions with  
4 stepladder curricula that will entitle BIWs to upgrade their skills and knowledge for  
5 community work or to pursue further training as midwives, pharmacists, nurses or  
6 doctors.

7  
8  
9  
10 **Section 6. Accreditation and Competency Assessment** – The Department of  
11 Health, in coordination with local governments and the Civil Service Commission, shall  
12 conduct a competency assessment test upon completion of the Education and Training  
13 Program, provided that this requirement shall be waived for those who have served as  
14 Barangay Health Workers for five (5) or more years. Only those who have passed the  
15 assessment test or have served as BIWs for five years or more will be accredited. The  
16 Provincial Health Board, with the participation of TESDA, PhilHealth, and accredited  
17 training NGOs, is hereby mandated to carry out the accreditation of Barangay Health  
18 Workers.

19  
20 **Section 7. Program Cost and Cost Sharing for Local Government Units.** – The  
21 basic Education and Training Program shall be offered free of charge. Local  
22 governments shall adopt a cost-sharing financing scheme with the National Government  
23 through the DOH for the implementation of the basic course on Barangay Health Work  
24 depending on the income level of the concerned local government units.

25  
26 **Section 8. Compensation and Other Incentives.** – All accredited Barangay Health  
27 Workers shall be entitled to a monthly basic pay of six thousand pesos (Php6,000.00).  
28 They shall likewise be entitled to the incentives and benefits provided under the Magna  
29 Carta for Public Health Workers, and shall be covered by all existing statutory benefits  
30 such as PAG-IBIG, GSIS and Philhealth. In addition, they shall be given burial and  
31 disability assistance in case of death or if the BHW is afflicted by illness which results to  
32 disability, especially if such occurs in the duration of his service. A regular adjustment in  
33 monetary and other non-monetary incentives shall be made to help improve the living  
34 condition of Barangay Health Workers.

35  
36 A BIW who has served less than five (5) years upon the passage of this Act will be given  
37 a pro-rated amount based on years of service. S/he will be given first priority in enlisting  
38 for the Education and Training Program.

39  
40 **Section 9. Compensation based on Philhealth utilization.** - Philhealth is directed to  
41 develop a compensation package for accredited BIWs based on Philhealth utilization for  
42 programs including but not limited to social health insurance navigation, maternal neo-  
43 natal child health care and nutrition, primary care packages, rehabilitation and recovery of  
44 senior citizens and Persons with Disability (PWD), provided that compensation received  
45 from Philhealth will be over and above the monthly basic pay.

46  
47 **Section 10. Mandatory Continuing Community-based Health Education.** – The

1 DOH, in cooperation with TESDA, will formulate a module for Mandatory Continuing  
2 Community-based Health Education (MCCHE). Each accredited BIW will be required  
3 undergo an MCCHE at least every three (3) years of active service, or as warranted by  
4 the DOH.

5  
6 **Section 11. *Implementing Agencies.*** - Within one (1) year from the effectivity of this  
7 Act, the TESDA and DOH, with the participation of various health union  
8 representatives shall formulate, finalize and launch the BIW education training program,  
9 assessment, and national certification program. The Department of Interior and Local  
10 Government (DILG), DOH, LGUs, and other appropriate government agencies, with  
11 the participation of various health union representatives, shall provide the Implementing  
12 Rules and Regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act. The  
13 Implementing Rules and Regulations shall be published in the Official Gazette or in a  
14 newspaper of general circulation.

15  
16 **Section 12. *Funding source.***- An initial allocation of Fifty Million Pesos  
17 (P50,000,000.00) shall be included in the General Appropriations to support the policies  
18 and objectives under this Act. Congress shall provide subsequent appropriations in the  
19 annual budget of the Department of Health from sin tax revenues.

20  
21 **Section 13. *Non-diminution of Benefits.*** Nothing in this law shall be construed to  
22 eliminate or in any way diminish entitlements, or other benefits being provided to or  
23 enjoyed by BIWs under Republic Act No. 7883 or other laws and issuances, at the time  
24 of the promulgation of this Act.

25  
26 **Section 14. *Separability Clause.*** - Should any provision of this Act be declared  
27 unconstitutional, the remaining parts not affected thereby shall remain valid and  
28 operational.

29  
30 **Section 15. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, decrees, orders, circulars, issuances, rules and  
31 regulations and parts thereof which are inconsistent with this act are hereby repealed,  
32 amended or modified accordingly.

33  
34 **Section 16. *Effectivity.*** - This act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication  
35 in the Official Gazette or in any two (2) newspaper of general circulation in the  
36 Philippines.

37  
38  
39  
40 ***Approved,***