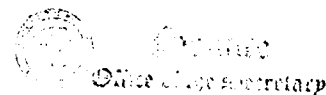


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )



20 APR 16 A9:14

SENATE  
S. B. No. 1430

RECEIVED BY

---

Introduced by **SENATOR IMEE R. MARCOS**

---

**AN ACT**  
**PROHIBITING DISCRIMINATION AGAINST HEALTHCARE AND OTHER**  
**FRONTLINE WORKERS, AND PERSONS SUSPECTED OF COVID-19**  
**INFECTION, PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER**  
**PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article II, Section 15 of the 1987 Constitution provides that, "*the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.*"

On 11 March 2020, the Director General of the World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 as pandemic. In the Philippines alone, there have been five thousand two hundred twenty three (5,223) confirmed cases and three hundred thirty five (335) deaths. These statistics continue to show a pattern of exponential increase, and no sign of "*flattening the curve*" anytime soon. It is projected to peak in the next two (2) months, with approximately one hundred forty thousand (140,000) to five hundred fifty thousand (550,000) people infected in Metro Manila.

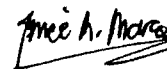
According to Dr. Oscar Tinio, Chair of the Philippine Medical Association's (PMA) Commission on Legislation, the ratio of health workers, specifically doctors, who attend to persons who have contracted COVID-19, set at one (1) in every forty thousand (40,000), is grossly disproportionate. Worse, to date, twenty one (21) doctors have

already died due to COVID-19 while more than 5 percent (5%) of the country's health workers are quarantined. Yet, at great risk to their health and lives, healthcare workers persist in protecting the lives of others.

However, in the past weeks, there have been increasingly frequent reports of discriminatory acts committed against healthcare and other frontline workers, PUM's, PUI's, and COVID-positive suspects. Some have been evicted from their homes, while others were prevented from returning to their communities. Others were allegedly doused with water or bleaching solutions, or refused service in eateries or public transport facilities due to fears of infection. Similarly, healthcare workers have been sometimes shunned by local stores, boarding houses and even their own barangay and townmates.

As an act of compassion, some local government units have enacted ordinances in order to immediately address the discrimination experienced by healthcare and other frontline workers, PUM's, PUI's, and other COVID-positive suspects.

Thus the passage of this bill is urgently sought to penalize those who are found to have committed acts that discriminate, shame, humiliate, or stigmatize healthcare and other frontline workers, and other victims due to their medical condition.

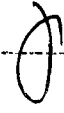


**IMEE R. MARCOS**



20 APR 16 A9:15

SENATE  
S. B. No. 1430

RECEIVED BY: 

---

Introduced by **SENATOR IMEE R. MARCOS**

---

**AN ACT**  
**PROHIBITING DISCRIMINATION AGAINST HEALTHCARE WORKERS,**  
**FRONTLINERS, AND PERSONS SUSPECTED OF COVID-19 INFECTION,**  
**PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR, 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 "Anti-Coronavirus 2019  
2        (COVID-19) Discrimination Act."

3        **SEC. 2. Definition of Terms.** – As used in this Act, the following terms shall be  
4        defines as follows:

5        (a) *Health workers* refer to those who deliver care and services to the sick and  
6        ailing, either directly or indirectly, including but not limited to, doctors, nurses, hospital  
7        and clinic aides, and laboratory technicians.

8        This also include those engaged as temporary Human Resources for Health in  
9        accordance with Republic Act No. 11469, also known as the "*Bayanihan to Heal as One*  
10       *Act*", such as medical and allied medical staff to complement or supplement the current  
11       health workforce or to man the temporary medical facilities to be established under  
12       the aforementioned law.

1 (b) *Persons infected, Patients Under Investigation (PUIs)* are those persons  
2 suspected of contracting, have probably contracted COVID-19, or are confirmed to  
3 have contracted COVID-19, in accordance with the guidelines issued by the  
4 Department of Health (DOH).

5 (c) *Frontliners* refers to the officers and members of the Philippine National  
6 Police (PNP), the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), the Philippine Coast Guard  
7 (PCG), and instrumentalities of the government rendering emergency frontline  
8 services, border control and other critical services. Also included are workers in private  
9 establishments providing essential services and necessities and such activities related  
10 to food and medicine production, such as public markets, supermarkets, groceries,  
11 convenience stores, hospitals, medical clinics, pharmacies and drug stores, food,  
12 preparation and delivery services, water-refilling stations, manufacturing and  
13 processing plants of basic food products and medicines, banks, money transfer  
14 services, power, energy, telecommunications and water supplies and other related  
15 facilities.

16 **SEC. 3. *Prohibited Acts.*** – It shall be unlawful for any person, natural or  
17 juridical, to commit any act, such as prevention of entry to residences or  
18 establishments, or make utterances which cause or tend to cause stigma, disgrace,  
19 shame, humiliation, harassment or otherwise discriminate against persons suspected  
20 of COVID-19 infection, a health worker, or a frontliner, as defined under this Act.

21 *Provided that,* any public officer who refuses or fails, without justifiable reason,  
22 to give assistance to a person suspected of COVID-19 infection, a health worker, or a  
23 frontliner that intends to return to his place of residence or domicile, after obtaining  
24 clearance of the COVID-19 infection from the proper health officials, shall be equally  
25 liable under Section 4 of this Act.

26 **SEC. 4. *Penalties.*** – Any person in violation of Section 3 hereof shall suffer the  
27 penalty of imprisonment not exceeding six (6) months or a fine of fifty thousand pesos  
28 (Php 50,000.00), or both, at the discretion of the court. If the offender is a public  
29 officer, the maximum penalty herein shall be imposed.

1 In cases where the offender is a corporation, association, partnership or any  
2 other juridical person, the penalty shall be imposed upon the president, directors,  
3 managers, managing partners, as the case may be, who participated in the  
4 commission of the offense or who shall have knowingly permitted or failed to prevent  
5 the commission of the same.

6 In cases where the offender is an alien, he shall, in addition to the penalties  
7 herein prescribed, be deported without need of further proceedings.

8 **SEC. 5. *Separability Clause.*** - If for any reason any provision of this Act is  
9 declared unconstitutional or invalid, such parts or portions not affected thereby shall  
10 remain in full force and effect.

11 **SEC. 6. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees,  
12 presidential proclamations, letters of instruction, rules and regulations or parts thereof  
13 which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified  
14 accordingly.

15 **SEC. 7. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following  
16 completion of its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,