


FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC
OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

7 JUL 31 1976

RECEIVED BY: 

SENATE

S. No. 1405

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR COMPAÑERA PIA S. CAYETANO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Our health workers serve as the main pillars of the health care system. They are our doctors, nurses, midwives, dentists, technicians, nutritionists, therapists, aides and other medical and health personnel. They manage to save lives everyday, despite difficult conditions, inadequate resources and very low pay.

For this reason, this bill seeks to give long overdue recognition to those who quietly and anonymously yet diligently toil everyday to minister to the sick and afflicted, the well and unwell in health facilities across our country by declaring May 7 of every year as a special working holiday to be known as "Health Workers' Day."

Through this declaration, we hope that the annual public observance of the "Health Workers' Day" will draw urgent awareness to the plight of our 350,000 health workers and underscore the State's responsibility to allot sufficient budget priority for health and to improve the living and working conditions of our health workforce.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this measure is earnestly urged.


COMPAÑERA PIA S. CAYETANO
Senator

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AN ACT
DECLARING MAY 7 OF EVERY YEAR AS "HEALTH WORKERS' DAY"

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

SEC. 1. This Act shall be known as the "***Health Workers' Day Act.***"

SEC. 2. To give due recognition to the important role and contributions of the health workers who provide vital health services to our people and to promote their rights and welfare and enhance their sense of worth and dignity, May 7 of every year is hereby declared as a special working holiday to be known as "Health Workers' Day."

"SEC. 3. For purposes of this Act, the term "health workers" shall mean all persons who are engaged in health and health-related work, and all persons employed in all hospitals, sanitarium, health infirmaries, health centers, rural health units, barangay health stations, clinic, and other health-related establishments owned and operated by the government or its political subdivisions with original charters or by the private sector, and shall include medical, allied health professional, administrative and support personnel employed regardless of their employment status.

SEC. 4. To ensure the meaningful observance of the holiday as herein declared, all heads of government health facilities, offices and instrumentalities, including government-owned and controlled hospitals as well as local government health units, and employers in the private sector, shall encourage and afford sufficient time and opportunities for their employees to engage and participate in any activity to mark Health Workers' Day.

SEC. 5. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,