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S.B. NO. 2543

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Introduced by HON. RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Section 11, Article 13 of the 1987 Constitution espouses the commitment of the state to adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all people at affordable cost.

One of the most alarming phenomena besetting the government today is the mass exodus of health professionals to foreign lands. In the mid-70's, 68 percent of Filipino doctors were working outside the country as doctors. But nowadays, they are leaving the country to work not as doctors but as nurses. As a matter of fact, medical doctors are now studying to become nurses so they could work abroad. In 2003-2004, more than 2,700 physicians took the Philippine Board of Nursing Licensure Examination while an estimated 9,000 more are enrolled in 45 nursing schools who are offering "customized" courses for physicians all over the country. Since 2001, around 5,000 doctors have left the Philippines as nurses.

Further, nearly 80% of our public health physicians have taken up or are enrolled in nursing. Poor working conditions as opposed to the attractive salaries and compensation package offered abroad have been cited as the primary reasons for the career shift among our public health physicians.

Our current estimated doctor-to-patient ratio is way behind the acceptable ratio of the World Health Organization which is 1 doctor for 10,000 people. Our country has one government doctor for every 20,000 population. If the government does not address this outflow of our doctors, the delivery of our health systems will be greatly compromised.

This bill seeks to our doctors to stay in the country by providing for an increase in the salary of the government doctors to at least Grade 28 as well as the educational benefits of their children.

Thus, the immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.  
Senator

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
*Third Regular Session*

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**AN ACT PROVIDING FOR AN INCREASE IN THE SALARY OF GOVERNMENT DOCTORS AND FOR EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS FOR THEIR CHILDREN, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE**

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

**Section 1. Declaration of Policy.** – It hereby the policy of the state to ensure adequate delivery of public health services and in pursuance thereto to provide economic incentives to government-employed doctors so that they will be encouraged to stay in the country.

**SEC. 2. Coverage.** – The provisions of this Act embrace all physicians employed in the government which includes both national and local governments. As used in this Act, a government physician is a Doctor of Medicine duly licensed by the Professional Regulatory Commission employed in government hospitals, public health institutions or government agency.

**SEC. 3. Raising Salary Grade to Provide Increase.** – In order to bolster the morale of government-employed physicians, strengthen their commitment to serve and enhance their professionalism, their minimum base pay is hereby adjusted to Salary Grade 28 prescribed under Republic Act No. 6578, otherwise known as the “Compensation and Classification Act of 1989”. *Provided*, that for physicians employed in local government units, adjustments to their salaries shall be according to Section 10 of said Act.

**Sec. 4. Educational Benefits for Children.** – Children of doctors employed in government hospitals, health institutions or agencies for at least five (5) years are hereby provided full scholarship in state or government supported universities or colleges for degrees leading to the College of Medicine and for the Degree in Doctor of Medicine, provided further, that upon being licensed to practice their profession by the Professionals Commission, they shall serve as doctors in government hospitals, health institutions and agencies for at least five (5) years. Failure of the beneficiaries to comply with this provision will require them to reimburse the total cost of their scholarship to the state or government-supported universities or colleges where they completed their pre-medical and medical degrees.

**Sec. 5. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, executive orders, rules and regulations contrary to the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**SEC.6. Separability Clause.** – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

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

Approved,