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SENATE
S. No. 1988

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Introduced by Senator MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID

AN ACT
TO DESIGNATE THE SEVENTH (7TH) DAY OF APRIL OF EVERY YEAR AS
BARANGAY HEALTH AND NUTRITION WORKERS DAY, MANDATING
CONCERNED AGENCIES TO CONDUCT EVENTS DURING ITS OBSERVANCE,
TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The government enlisted the Barangay Health Workers (BHW) to bring health services to the basic political unit in the country. They are usually a resident of the area whose work capacity is initially assessed by the physician and recommended for hiring as health volunteers.

BHWs are employed and trained by the LGU health offices as barangay nutrition scholars (as community links of the service providers who care for the malnourished, mobilize/ assist the community and upkeep records / reports) and further trained to assist in specific health programs such as tuberculosis program, maternal and child health, immunization, educating the members of the community, as well as recording of health, hygiene and environmental profile of their barangay.¹

¹ Department of Health | R.A. 7883: Barangay Health Workers' Benefits and Incentives Act of 1995 | www.doh.gov.ph

Our barangay health and nutrition workers are indispensable in ensuring that everyone has access to public health services and in realizing the right to health of Filipinos wherever they may be situated.

Dahil kinikilala natin ang kontribusyon ng ating mga barangay health at nutrition workers sa sektor ng kalusugan at sa pambansang kaunlaran, ngayon, higit kailanman, na dapat ipakita ng pamahalaan ang kanyang pagpapahalaga sa kanila sa pamamagitan ng pagtatalaga ng isang araw upang sila ay kilalanin at isulong ang kanilang mga karapatan.

This bill seeks to recognize the invaluable contribution and sacrifices of our barangay health and nutrition workers and the whole public health sector.

It is a response to the call to declare the seventh (7th) of April as Barangay Health and Nutrition Workers Day as a recognition to the rights of barangay health and nutrition workers, their hardwork and dedication, and their contribution to delivering health services to our countrymen.

In view of the foregoing, immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID
Senator

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

SECTION 1. Title. — This Act shall be known as the "Barangay Health and
Nutrition Workers' Day Act".

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. — It is hereby declared to be the policy of
the State to undertake initiatives that will give due honor and recognition to the crucial
role of its barangay health and nutrition workers who are at the forefront of the
delivery of health care at the grassroots level, and effectively harness their potential
as partners in national development. To promote the wellness and well-being of
barangay health and nutrition workers and instill in their hearts and minds the values
of nationalism, collective action, civic consciousness and patriotism among them that
will shape the character needed for national development.

SECTION 3. Barangay Health and Nutrition Workers' Day. — In recognition
of the contribution of the barangay health and nutrition workers to the delivery and
continuity of primary health care and nutrition services in the country, the seventh
(7th) day of April is hereby declared as Barangay Health and Nutrition Workers' Day.

1 **SECTION 4. *Inter-agency and Multi-sectoral Effort.*** — The Department of
2 Health, Department of Interior and Local Government, and the National Nutrition
3 Council, in partnership with the national organization of barangay health and nutrition
4 workers, shall serve as the lead agencies in the preparation and implementation of
5 the annual program of activities and advocacy campaign for the observance of the
6 Barangay Health and Nutrition Workers’ Day.

7 To ensure the meaningful observance of this day as herein declared, the heads
8 of local government units and sangguniang barangays are encouraged to allow their
9 respective personnel to participate in any related activities in their localities,
10 communities, offices or establishments.

11 **SECTION 5. *Appropriations.*** — The amount necessary to implement the
12 provision of this Act shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

13 **SECTION 6. *Separability Clause.*** — In the event that any part, section or
14 provision of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid by a competent court,
15 the remaining provisions thereby shall remain valid and in full force and effect as if
16 the sections or provisions so annulled or voided had never been incorporated herein.

17 **SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause.*** — All laws, decrees, executive orders,
18 issuances, rules and regulations, or parts thereof not consistent with the provisions of
19 this Act are hereby repealed or modified and/or superseded as case may be by this
20 Act accordingly.

21 **SECTION 8. *Effectivity.*** — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
22 complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general
23 circulation, whichever comes earlier.

24 *Approved,*