

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 43



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Introduced by **HONORABLE ROMERO "MIRO" S. QUIMBO**

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#### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Article XIII Section 11 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that "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 affordable cost."

By virtue of the Title I Section 17 of the Local Government Code, deliveries of health care services were devolved to the local government units (LGU), aiming for self-reliant LGUs to deliver more direct and immediate health care services to the people. At the forefront of primary health care delivery are the barangay health workers or BHWs.

At the grassroots where medical practitioners are far in between, BHWS are tasked with information dissemination on child and maternal health care programs and provision of initial response to health risks. It is thus safe to say that our government's primary responder to any health problem and primary advocate of health prevention is the barangay health worker. They surge into the farthest areas to perform their duties, heedless of the perils along the way. As front liners, BHWs are entrusted with primary health care delivery but the benefits and incentives they receive are not commensurate with the heavy responsibilities they bear.

Republic Act 7883 or the Barangay Health Workers' Benefits and Incentives Act of 1995 allowed for the institutionalization of remuneration for our BHWs but the law has to be updated to present realities. Apart from the hazard and subsistence allowances enshrined in RA 7883, our BHWs nationwide receive somewhere between P100 to P2,000 monthly honorarium depending on the discretion of the local leaders. Although BHWs are categorized as volunteers, such irregular and measly amount does not give them the dignity and recognition they deserved for the valuable work they do. Having to depend on the whims of the local leaders for the amount of their honorarium further demoralize the BHWs as they are often at mercy of politicians and are often caught in political clashes.

This bill aims to rectify such gaps by providing for fixed monthly honorarium, cash gifts, separation pay and disability benefits to all accredited BHWS. This bill also seeks to ensure that amounts provided in the measure will be adjusted to present realities based on Consumer Price Indices (CPI), upon review and approval of the local health board.

In support of around 220,000 accredited BHWS in the country, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



**ROMERO "MIRO" S. QUIMBO**  
Representative  
Second District, Marikina City

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1 **AN ACT GRANTING A FIXED MONTHLY HONORARIA AND ADDITIONAL**  
2 **BENEFITS TO ACCREDITED BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS,**  
3 **AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE SECTION 6 OF REPUBLIC ACT 7883**  
4 **OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS'**  
5 **BENEFITS AND INCENTIVES ACT OF 1995**

6  
7 *Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the*  
8 *Philippines in Congress assembled:*

9  
10 **SECTION 1.** *Short Title* – Section 6 of Republic Act 7883 otherwise known  
11 as the “Barangay Health Workers’ Benefits and Incentives Act of 1995” is  
12 hereby amended to read as follows:

13 Section 6. Incentives and Benefits – In recognition of their service, all  
14 accredited barangay health workers who are actively and regularly  
15 performing their duties shall be entitled to the following incentives  
16 and benefits:

17  
18 **a) HONORARIA - ALL ACCREDITED BARANGAY HEALTH**  
19 **WORKERS SHALL BE ENTITLED TO A FIXED MONTHLY**  
20 **HONORARIA OF FOUR THOUSAND PESOS (P4,000)**

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1           **b) CASH GIFT - ALL ACCREDITED BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS**  
2           **SHALL RECEIVE A CASH GIFT OF TWO THOUSAND PESOS**  
3           **(P2,0000 TO BE GIVEN EVERY DECEMBER.**

4  
5           **c) SEPARATION PAY - ACCREDITED BARANGAY HEALTH**  
6           **WORKERS WHO HAVE SERVED FOR TEN (10) YEARS AND ABOVE**  
7           **SHALL BE ENTITLED TO TWO THOUSAND PESOS (P2,000) FOR**  
8           **EVERY YEAR OF SERVICE.**

9  
10          **d) DISABILITY BENEFIT - ACCREDITED BARANGAY HEALTH**  
11          **WORKERS WHO SUSTAIN INJURY OR SICKNESS ARISING OUT**  
12          **OF AND IN THE COURSE OF PERFORMING THEIR DUTIES SHALL**  
13          **BE ENTITLED TO TWO THOUSAND PESOS (P2,000) FOR EVERY**  
14          **YEAR OF SERVICE**

15          e) Hazard Allowance - xxx

16  
17          k) Preferential Access to Loans - xxx

18  
19          **SUCH INCENTIVES AND BENEFITS, MAY BE INCREASED, UPON**  
20          **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE LOCAL HEALTH BOARD, AFTER**  
21          **CONSIDERING AMONG OTHERS, PRESENT CONSUMER PRICE**  
22          **INDEX (CPI), AS PUBLISHED BY THE NATIONAL STATISTICS**  
23          **OFFICE (NSO).**

24

1 **SECTION 2.** Implementing Rules and Regulations - The Department of  
2 Health, in cooperation with the Department of Interior and Local  
3 Government, and other concerned government agencies, shall formulate,  
4 within one hundred eighty days (180) from its effectivity, the rules and  
5 regulations necessary to implement this Act.

6  
7 **SECTION 3.** Separability Clause - If any provision or part hereof, is held  
8 invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not  
9 otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

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11 **SECTION 4.** Repealing Clause - All laws, issuances or any part thereof  
12 inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

13  
14 **SECTION 5.** Effectivity -This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following  
15 its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general  
16 circulation.

Approved,