

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 453



Introduced by Honorable Lucy Marie Torres-Gomez

EXPLANATORY NOTE

It is of vital importance that pregnant women take good care of themselves to ensure their good health and that of their babies. Pregnant women should always seek proper medical service before, during and after delivery.

Local health records show that mortality among mothers and infants are much higher among mothers who did not undergo any pre-natal care or did not seek medical assistance at time of delivery. Undetected illnesses of mothers during pregnancy pose certain risk of complications that can lead to potentially serious consequences for both the mother and the baby. These incidents usually happen to rural and urban poor families.

The establishment of birthing center in every barangay nationwide will address the medical needs of our pregnant women especially those whose family income is within poverty line.

Hence, approval of this bill is earnestly recommended.


LUCY TORRES-GOMEZ

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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BIRTHING CENTER
IN EVERY BARANGAY NATIONWIDE AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. A birthing center is hereby established in every barangay nationwide under the supervision of the Department of Health. Birthing centers shall provide free medical services and assistance to pregnant women.

SEC. 2. The Center shall have the following personnel:

a. One (1) physician who is a bonafide member of the medical profession; and

b. Two (2) midwives who shall have rendered at least two (2) years of excellent performance appraisal for their service in any government hospital or private health institution.



SEC. 3 The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged to the appropriations of the Department of Health. Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for the continued operation and maintenance of the birthing centers shall be included in the annual budget of the respective city or municipality where the birthing centers are located.

SEC. 4. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'MSD', is located on the right side of the page. The signature is written in a cursive style with a long vertical line extending upwards from the top of the letters.