

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

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 760

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	
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Introduced by DIWA Party-list Representative Emmeline Y. Aglipay – Villar

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### EXPLANATORY NOTE

In the Philippines, ninety five children die every single day due to malnutrition. The state of a child's health depends on a healthy mother during pregnancy and even prior to conception. Thirty-two million babies are born Small for their Gestational Age and fetal growth restrictions cause more than 800,000 deaths each year in the first month of life, which accounts for more than 25% of all newborn deaths.<sup>1</sup> Many of these tragedies could be prevented if mothers are given proper care during pregnancy. During pregnancy mothers should be receiving optimum amounts of folic acid, protein, calcium and other micronutrients in order to ensure the proper growth and development of the fetus.

Newborns with fetal growth restrictions are at an increased risk of being stunted at twenty-four months and developing non-communicable diseases in adulthood.<sup>2</sup> Undernutrition due to fetal growth restrictions, suboptimum breastfeeding or total absence of breastfeeding, and vitamin and mineral deficiencies, among others, causes 45% of all deaths of children below five years of age. This strengthens the case for particular attention to be given during the first 1000 days of a child's life, from conception until the second year.

From conception in the womb until the first two years of a child's life are vital for the child's future mind and body development. It can be difficult for parents, especially new parents, to navigate the recommendations from literature, the media, friends, and family, with regard to the proper nutrition for the child. Without the proper guidance and support, malnutrition is a real threat to many Filipino children.

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<sup>1</sup> Black RE, Victora CG, Walker SP, and the Maternal and Child Nutrition Study Group, Maternal and child under-nutrition and overweight in low-income and middle-income countries. Lancet 2013.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

This bill, a re-filing of House Bill No. 5431 by Rep. Rogelio J. Espina, seeks to assist parents in providing the best possible nutrition for the mother and her children by establishing a nutrition education and support program for the first thousand days of life of each child, from conception until two years of age.

*Emmeline Y. Aglipay - Villar*

**EMMELINE Y. AGLIPAY – VILLAR**  
Representative, DIWA Party-list

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

**SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS**  
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House Bill No. **760**

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Introduced by **DIWA Party-list Representative Emmeline Y. Aglipay – Villar**

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**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH CARE PROGRAM TO PROTECT FILIPINO MOTHERS AND CHILDREN FROM MALNUTRITION AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

**SECTION 1.** The Department of Health (DOH) shall, in coordination with the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), develop a comprehensive health care program for pregnant and lactating women, as well as the health and nutrition of their newborn children from day 1 to day 1,000.

For purposes of this Act, the “1,000-day period” starts from day one of pregnancy up to the age of two (2) years.

**SECTION 2.** The maternal and child health care services which may be provided to eligible individuals during the 1,000-day period include the following:

- a) Instruction and counseling regarding future health care for the mother and child;
- b) Nutrition counseling;
- c) Counseling and education concerning all aspects of prenatal care, childbirth and motherhood;
- d) Milk-feeding program for pregnant and nursing mothers, including breastfeeding for new-born children;
- e) Treating malnourished children with special and therapeutic foods; and
- f) General family counseling, including child and family development.

Pregnant women and their new-born children up to the age of two (2) years, shall be entitled to receive maternal and child health care services provided in this section.

**SECTION 3. Appropriations** - The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be charged to the current appropriations for the Department of Health. Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

**SECTION 4. Implementing Rules and Regulations** - Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Health shall, in coordination with the Secretary of the Interior and Local Government and Secretary of Social Welfare and Development promulgate rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

**SECTION 5. Repealing Clause** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, administrative orders or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

**SECTION 6.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,