

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

Seventeenth Congress  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 899



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Introduced by ALONA Representative  
Anna Marie Villaraza-Suarez

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#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1,000 days between a woman's pregnancy and her child's second birthday have been identified as a critical window that determines a person's intellectual development and lifelong health.

Studies have shown that the nutrition provided to the child during these first 1,000 days provides the essential foundation for the child's overall development. The right nutrition during these first 1,000 days will enable a child to reach his/her full adult potential and likewise prevent the harmful effects of malnutrition, including stunting and delayed development. Furthermore, this can have a substantial impact on a country's economy, boosting GDP by as much as twelve percent (12%).

According to the UN-World Food Programme (UN-WFP), approximately half of all child deaths can be attributed to malnutrition, with three (3) million children dying every year from related causes. Another two hundred million are chronically malnourished and suffer from serious, often irreversible, physical and cognitive damage.

In the Philippines, the Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI) reported that 2 out of 10 or 19.9% of children among 0-5 years old were underweight, 3 out of 10 or

30.3% of children among 0-5 years old were stunted, and 1 out of 10 or 7.9% children among 0-5 years old were wasted.

This bill aims to provide a solution to this problem by establishing mother and child care program in every barangay in the Philippines, and institutionalizing policies relevant thereto.

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



ANNA MARIE VILLARAZA-SUAREZ

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**AN ACT TO PROTECT FILIPINO MOTHERS AND CHILDREN FROM  
MALNUTRITION BY ESTABLISHING A COMPREHENSIVE MATERNAL AND  
CHILD HEALTH CARE PROGRAM, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF, AND FOR  
OTHER PURPOSES**

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

1 **SECTION 1. *Short title.*** – This Act shall be known as the “*The First 1,000 Days Act*”.

2

3 **SECTION 2. *Declaration of policies.*** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State: (a) To  
4 equally protect the life of the mother and the life of the unborn from conception; (b) To  
5 recognize the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health  
6 care services, and the duty of the State that no child is deprived of his or her right of access  
7 to such health services.

8

9 For purposes of this Act, the “*First 1,000 days*” refers to the period starting from Day  
10 One of a woman’s pregnancy, until the child reaches the age of two years.

11

12 **SECTION 3. *The First 1,000 Days of Life.*** – It is the critical window that determines a  
13 person’s intellectual development and lifelong health.

14

1 **SECTION 4. *Establishing a First 1000 Days Program in every barangay.*** – The Department  
2 of Health (DOH) shall, in coordination with the Department of Interior and Local  
3 Government (DILG), the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), and the  
4 National Nutrition Council (NNC) develop a comprehensive health care program for  
5 pregnant and lactating women as well as the health and nutrition of their newborn children  
6 from 1 to 1,000 days, in every barangay.

7

8 **SECTION 5. *Program Content.*** – The maternal and child health care services which may be  
9 provided to eligible individuals during the 1,000 day period shall include the following  
10 components:

11 **Component 1. Health Care and Sanitation**

- 12 • Trainings and seminars on Community Management of Maternal and Newborn Care  
13 (MMNC) and Essential Intra-Partum of Newborn Care (EINC);
- 14 • Conduct of laboratory work-ups and rotating ultrasound;
- 15 • Provision of Maternal Child Health Care and Nutrition (MCHCN) package: (a) access  
16 to comprehensive antenatal care services; (b) facility based births attended by skilled  
17 health professionals; (c) immediate postpartum and post-natal care by skilled health  
18 professionals to include initiation of breastfeeding and immunization;
- 19 • Strengthening the Newborn Screening Program and Expanded Program on  
20 Immunization;
- 21 • Health Education Advocacy;
- 22 • Environmental Sanitation; and
- 23 • Allocation of Target Client List to each priority municipality

24

25 **Component 2. Food and Nutrition**

- 26 • Establishment of Family Home Gardens;
- 27 • Strengthening of Information Education Campaign;
- 28 • Provision of Supplementation to Mothers and Children; and
- 29 • Capability Development

30

31 **Component 3. Social Care**

- 32 • Conduct of Parent Effectiveness Service;
- 33 • Gender and Development Sensitivity Sessions; and
- 34 • Parents' Congress.

35

36 **SECTION 6. *Implementing rules and regulations.*** – The DOH shall, in coordination with  
37 the DILG, DSWD and representatives of recognized women's and children's organizations  
38 and academic communities, shall promulgate and publish the necessary rules and

1 regulations for the effective implementation of this Act within two months from the date of  
2 the effectivity of this Act.

3

4 **SECTION 7. *Appropriation.*** - To carry out the provisions of this Act, such amount as may  
5 be necessary is hereby authorized to be appropriated from the National Treasury.  
6 Thereafter, the amount necessary for the continuous operation of the Program shall be  
7 included in the annual appropriation of the DOH.

8

9 **SECTION 8. *Separability clause.*** - If, for any reason, any part, section or provision of this  
10 Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall  
11 continue to be in full force and effect.

12

13 **SECTION 9. *Repealing clause.*** - All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules  
14 and regulations, and other issuances, or part or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with  
15 the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

16

17 **SECTION 10. *Effectivity clause.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after the  
18 completion of its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of  
19 general circulation.

Approved,