



Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session  
2988  
**HOUSE BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

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**Introduced by Rep. Precious Hipolito Castelo**

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#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

In his 2013 State of the Union Address, former United States President Barack Obama hailed a Filipino nurse, Menchu Sanchez, as a role model. He said: "We should follow the example of a New York City nurse named Menchu Sanchez. When Hurricane Sandy plunged her hospital into darkness, she wasn't thinking about how her own home was faring... Her mind was on the 20 precious newborns in her care and the rescue plan she devised that kept them all safe."

While it is a laudable feat for a Filipino nurse to be featured in the former US President Obama's speech, it is unfortunate that Filipino nurses search for greener pastures abroad. Filipino nurses have become so prevalent in the US, that they have started their own national organization, the Philippine Nurses Association of America.<sup>1</sup> In California alone, twenty percent (20%) of all registered nurses are Filipino.<sup>2</sup>

Undeniably, state of health care in the Philippines would have been exceptional if only the best nurses stayed here. However, we cannot truly blame them when they leave, as it is really more enticing to work in countries which offer better living standards and higher salaries. In the Philippines, the average salary of an entry-level nurse ranges from P8,000 - P13,500 per month.<sup>3</sup> It is high time to acknowledge that these figures are demonstrably incommensurate to what they do, especially considering how mentally and physically demanding their occupation is.

As such, this bill seeks to augment the salaries of government nurses to at least Thirty Thousand Pesos (P30,000.00). With the ever-growing challenges that face our nurses, it is only fitting to accord them the salary increase they rightfully deserve.

The immediate passage of this bill is collectively sought for.



**PRECIOUS HIPOLITO CASTELO**

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.globalization101.org/the-case-of-the-philippine-nurses/>

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.ble.dole.gov.ph/index.php/nurse>

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**AN ACT**  
**INCREASING THE BASIC SALARY OF GOVERNMENT NURSES TO THIRTY THOUSAND PESOS (PHP30,000.00)**

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

SECTION 1. All government nurses shall, regardless of their length of service, be entitled to Thirty Thousand Pesos (P30,000.00) basic monthly salary.

SEC. 2. The funds for the said increase shall be incorporated by the Department of Health (DOH) in its budget for each fiscal year.

SEC. 3. The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) in cooperation with the Department of Health (DOH) shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations for the effective and immediate implementation of this Act.

SEC. 4. All laws, decrees, executive orders, letters of instruction, rules and regulations or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 5. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

*Approved,*