EXPLANATORY NOTE

Teachers are considered one of the most influential and powerful forces of education as they instruct the youth to learn new things, guide them towards discipline, and enlighten them to grow as better people. Basically, teachers play a vital role in the education and formation of our youth and the progress of our nation. They work tediously in and out of the classroom and during school days and breaks.

Due to their hustle-and-bustle lifestyle, teachers are susceptible to ailments that are clearly work-related such as pharyngitis, anemia, hypertension, and hyperacidity, among others. Those who are seriously affected are opted to resign. Aside from the compensation they receive from the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation, they become the sole responsibility of their respective families. Most of the time, the compensation they receive are insufficient to support their recoveries.

Article XIV, Section 5, paragraph 5, of the Constitution states in part: “The State shall... ensure that teaching will attract and retain its rightful share of the best available talents through adequate remuneration and other means of job satisfaction and
fulfillment. Hence, there is a need for the state to provide rightful health facilities for its teachers.

This bill, therefore, seeks to establish a special hospital known as the National Teachers Medical Center in the National Capital Region in order to provide medical facilities for the hospitalization and medical needs of teachers and their dependents. It also requires regional hospitals to set up special wards with an initial capacity of at least fifty (50) beds to address the immediate medical needs of the teachers and their dependents residing therein.

This bill specifically proposes that the East Avenue Medical Center will be converted as the National Medical Center for Teachers.

In honor of the teachers of the Philippines, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.
Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3178

Introduced by Honorable ABRAHAM N. TOLENTINO

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SPECIAL HOSPITAL FOR TEACHERS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS, CONVERTING THE EAST AVENUE MEDICAL CENTER IN DILIMAN, QUEZON CITY, INTO THE NATIONAL TEACHERS MEDICAL CENTER, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, 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 “National Teachers Medical Center Act.”

2. Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to recognize the role of Filipino teachers in national progress and development, protect their interests and well-being, and provide them and their dependents access to affordable health care and development through an integrated and comprehensive approach. Towards this end, the State shall create a national medical center which will cater to the health and medical needs of teachers, whether in the active duty or retired, and their dependents.

3. Sec. 3. Coverage. - This Act shall apply to the following:

(a) Teacher, a Filipino citizen, who may be:

i. Any person who teaches any subject, including practical and vocational arts, at the day-care, pre-school, elementary, secondary,
senior high school, college, and post-graduate courses in all public schools;

ii. Any person who provides guidance and counseling in all public schools;

iii. Any person who provides instructional supervision in all public schools;

iv. Any person employed as school administrative support employee;

v. Physicians, dentists, and nurses employed exclusively by the public schools;

vi. Officials and employees of the Department of Education (DepEd) and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED); and

vii. Retired teachers and other public school employees who have rendered a minimum of ten years of continuous service prior to their retirement.

(b) Teacher’s Dependents limited to the following persons:

i. Legitimate spouse dependent upon the teacher for support;

ii. Legitimate, illegitimate, legitimated or legally adopted children, not more than eighteen (18) years of age, or is incapable of self-support because of mental or physical defect, regardless of age;

iii. The parent or parents living with and dependent upon the teacher for support.

Sec. 4. Creation of a National Teachers Medical Center and Special Wards in Regional Hospitals. – To carry out the above policy, the East Avenue Medical Center in Quirino District, Quezon City shall be converted into a special hospital for teachers and shall be named as the National Teachers Medical Center (NTMC). It shall be the primary medical facility for the hospitalization and medical care of teachers and their dependents.

Regional hospitals located outside the NCR shall put up special wards with an initial capacity of at least fifty (50) beds to address the immediate medical needs of teachers and their dependents residing therein.

Sec. 5. Free Hospitalization and Medical Care. – The NTMC and Regional Hospitals with special wards shall not charge any hospitalization, confinement,
medical treatment and medical care services rendered for teachers and their
dependents.

Sec. 6. *Objectives.* – To ensure the availability, accessibility and affordability
of quality health care, the NTMC and regional hospitals shall:
(a) Provide for a comprehensive or total health care services to all teachers
and their dependents;
(b) Complement the existing package of services under the National Health
Insurance Program to include preventive, promotive, diagnostic, curative
and rehabilitative programs;
(c) Conduct medical examination to ensure the physical and mental capability
of all teacher applicants; and
(d) Set-up a system that will effectively monitor the condition of patients and
to generate information/data in aid of policy formulation.

Sec. 7. *Governing Board.* – The NTMC shall be governed by the Board of
Directors composed of the following:
(a) The Secretary of Education, as *ex officio* Chairperson;
(b) The Secretary of Health, as *ex officio* Vice Chairperson;
(c) The Chairman of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), as *ex
officio* Member;
(d) The Secretary of Social Welfare and Development, as *ex officio* Member;
(e) Four (4) representatives from the teachers sector: one (1) from the
National Capital Region, one (1) from Luzon, one (1) from Visayas, and
one (1) from Mindanao, as Members, who shall be appointed by the
President of the Philippines from a list of nominees recommended by the
Chairperson in consultation with the Party-List group representing the
teacher’s sector and shall serve for a term of three (3) years without
reappointment.

Sec. 8. *Powers and Responsibilities of the Board.* – The Board of Directors of
NTMC shall have the following powers and responsibilities:
(a) To formulate and implement measures and programs to attain the
objectives and purposes as enunciated in Section 4 of this Act;
(b) To organize the structure of NTMC in accordance with the staffing pattern prepared by it in coordination with the Department of Health (DOH) and Civil Service Commission (CSC), and approved by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM);

c) To prescribe the duties and fix the compensation subject to the provisions of Republic Act No. 6758, as amended, or the "Compensation and Position Classification Act of 1989";

d) To enter into agreements and contracts in connection with its establishment, maintenance, operations and objectives;

e) To receive donations, contributions, bequests, subsidies or financial aid;

f) To issue rules and regulations to carry out the objectives and purposes of this Act; and

g) To perform such other duties and functions as may be provided by law.

Sec. 9. Meetings and Quorum. – The Board shall meet at least once a month or as often as may be necessary at the office of the NTMC. Special meetings may be convened at the call of the Chairman or by a majority of the members of the Board. Presence of majority of the members of the Board shall constitute a quorum.

Sec. 10. Allowances and per diems. – The members of the Board shall receive a per diem for every meeting actually attended subject to the pertinent budgetary law, rules and regulations on compensation, honoraria and allowances.

Sec. 11. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – The Board shall adopt rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act within ninety (90) days from the date of its effectivity.

Sec. 12. Appropriations. – An amount of Five Hundred Million Pesos (P500,000,000.00) shall be appropriated for the establishment and initial operations of the NTMC. Subsequently, appropriations for the operations shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

Sec. 13. Tax Exemption. – All donations, contributions, bequests, subsidies or financial aids to the Medical Center shall be exempt from payment of taxes under the National Internal Revenue Code and the Local Government Code.

Sec. 14. Annual Report. – The NTMC shall render to the President of the Republic of the Philippines and to each House of Congress an annual operational and
financial report within thirty (30) days from the first day of regular session of Congress the next calendar year.

Sec. 15. **Separability Clause.** – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, other sections or parts thereof not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

Sec. 16. **Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Sec. 17. **Effectivity Clause.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least one (1) newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,