AN ACT
DECLARING THE MONTH OF JUNE OF EVERY YEAR AS THE “NATIONAL FRONTLINERS MONTH” IN THE ENTIRE COUNTRY

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In the time of the Novel Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, the world witnessed a new set of heroes. These heroes have been with us for the longest time. However, when the time came for everyone to stay indoors in order to curb the spread of COVID-19, they remained in their battle stations.

Healthcare workers, food delivery drivers, supermarket workers, restaurant cooks, security guards, agriculture and fisheries workers, garbage collectors, bank employees, business process outsourcing workers, logistics workers, police and military personnel, social workers, media people, and government workers, *inter alia*, have been working selflessly, despite the risk of contracting COVID-19 in order to assure that essential services are given to the populace.

Since June is the month when we celebrate Philippine independence which was brought about by the heroism of Filipino revolutionaries who fought against foreign rule, it is only fitting that this measure seeks to institutionalize the annual celebration of the principles, values and contributions of our frontliners who carry the tradition of the same Filipino heroism through their own courage, hard work and sacrifices. This measure seeks to give recognition to our frontliners as the new breed of Filipino heroes by declaring the month of June of every year as the National Frontliners Month.
More than a month in the calendar for frontliners, this bill also mandates the Department of Health (DOH), the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), and the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), as the lead agencies, in coordination with the Civil Service Commission (CSC), Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) and other government agencies to conduct activities and programs that promote the principles and values espoused by our frontliners as well as honor and/or reward our frontliners for their essential role in the delivery of public services, recovery and nation building during national emergencies.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

HON. WES GATCHALIAN
Representative
1st District of Valenzuela
Republic of the Philippines

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7603

Introduced by HONORABLE WES GATCHALIAN

AN ACT
DECLARING THE MONTH OF JUNE OF EVERY YEAR AS THE “NATIONAL FRONTLINERS MONTH” IN THE ENTIRE COUNTRY”

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “The National Frontliners Month Act.”

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – In recognition of Filipino heroism through the courage, hard work and sacrifices of our frontliners, the month of June of every year is hereby declared as the “National Frontliners Month.”

SEC. 3. Objectives of the Policy. – The National Frontliners Month aims to:

a. Recognize the significant contributions of frontliners, such as the healthcare workers, police and military personnel, media, government workers, logistics workers, storekeepers, security guards, pharmacists, bank employees, delivery workers and other frontliners, in providing basic services for the essential needs of the public during national emergencies such as pandemics, calamities, disasters and other crises;

b. Highlight the heroism of our frontliners in providing, protecting and delivering public health, safety and welfare services, maintaining public order and security, keeping the economy running, and supporting the country and its people in enduring the challenges and difficulties during national emergencies;
c. Acknowledge the contribution of the employers who have supported these frontliners in ensuring the continuous flow of and making available essential goods and services during crises; and

d. Institutionalize the annual celebration that gives honor to our frontliners for their essential role and heroic response to the needs of the Filipino people.

SEC. 4. Lead Agencies. – The Department of Health, the Department of Trade and Industry, and the Department of Labor and Employment, as the lead agencies, in coordination with the Civil Service Commission, Department of Interior and Local Government and other government agencies, are mandated to conduct activities and programs that promote the principles and values espoused by our frontliners as well as honor and/or reward our frontliners for their essential role in the delivery of public services, recovery and nation building during national emergencies.

SEC. 5. Appropriations. – The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into law, and every year thereafter, as may be necessary.

SEC. 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Health, the Department of Labor and Employment and the Civil Service Commission shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act. Such rules and regulations shall take effect immediately thereafter.

SEC. 7. Separability Clause. – If any part or provision of this Act shall be held invalid or unconstitutional, the other parts or provisions hereof which are not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 8. Repealing Clause. – All laws, acts, presidential decrees, executive orders, administrative orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof, inconsistent with, or contrary to the provisions of this Act are hereby modified, amended, or repealed accordingly.

SEC. 9. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.
Approved,