

**NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES**  
*First Regular Session*



'22 SEP 14 P5:08

**SENATE**

**S.B. No. 1313**

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**INTRODUCED BY SENATOR RISA HONTIVEROS**

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**AN ACT  
DECLARING APRIL 7 OF EVERY YEAR AS BARANGAY HEALTH AND NUTRITION  
WORKERS DAY**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Primary health care is an integral part of our national health system. It is based on "practical, scientifically sound and socially acceptable methods and technology made universally accessible to individuals and families in the community at every stage of their development." Its functions and focus contribute to the overall social and economic development of the community (Alma-Ata Declaration, 1978)<sup>1</sup>.

In our communities, and for decades, our Barangay Health Workers (BHWs) and Barangay Nutrition Scholars (BNS) have been at the forefront of delivering primary health care and nutrition services. They served as the first contact of individuals and families to our national health system. They complement our cadres of medical and health professionals, especially in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas (GIDAs) and remote communities.

With the country's continuing fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, despite the risk of exposure to infection, our BHWs and BNS play an essential role in ensuring continuity in the delivery of primary health care and nutrition services and in bridging the national-local COVID-19 response to the communities through health and nutrition promotion and education.

In recognition of our BHWs and BNS's role and contribution, this bill seeks to declare April 7 of every year, which is marked and celebrated globally as World Health Day, as Barangay Health and Nutrition Workers Day. It aims to promote and emphasize the role of our community health and nutrition workers and volunteers in addressing health and nutrition issues and in delivering appropriate services.

The immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought, para sa kalusugan at nutrisyon ng barangay.

**RISA HONTIVEROS**  
*Senator*

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.who.int/publications/almaata\\_declaration\\_en.pdf](https://www.who.int/publications/almaata_declaration_en.pdf)

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WORKERS DAY**

*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 "Barangay Health and  
2 Nutrition Workers' Day Act."

3           *Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy.* – The State recognizes the vital role of the barangay  
4 health workers (BHWs) and barangay nutrition scholars (BNS) in realizing the right to  
5 health of individuals and families in the community.

6 It also recognizes barangay health and nutrition workers' contributions in the delivery and  
7 continuity of primary health care and nutrition services.

8 It also encourages the promotion of wellness and well-being of barangay health and  
9 nutrition workers and volunteers as an integral part of our health system and its human  
10 resource.

11           *Sec. 3. Barangay Health and Nutrition Workers Day.* – The seventh (7<sup>th</sup>) day of  
12 April of every year is hereby declared as Barangay Health and Nutrition Workers Day.

13 To ensure meaningful observance of this day as herein declared, all national government  
14 agencies and its instrumentalities, local government units in the country, including private  
15 and non-government organizations, are encouraged to organize, participate and engage  
16 in ceremonies or activities in their localities, communities, offices or establishments.

17           *Sec. 4. Lead Agencies.* – The Department of Health (DOH) and the Department of  
18 Interior and Local Government (DILG), in partnership with the national organization of  
19 barangay health and nutrition workers, shall be the lead agencies in charge of the  
20 coordination of the preparation and implementation of activities and advocacy campaign  
21 for the observance of the "Barangay Health and Nutrition Workers Day."

22           *Sec. 5. Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The DOH, in coordination with the  
23 DILG and consultation with barangay health nutrition workers' organizations, shall

1 promulgate the necessary implementing rules and regulations within sixty (60) days from  
2 the effectivity of this Act.

3           Sec. 6. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication  
4 in the Official Gazette or a newspaper of general circulation., whichever comes earlier.

*Approved,*