

HONORABLE JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO

Chairperson

Senate Sub-committee on the Magna Carta of Barangay Health Workers

Senate of the Philippines

Pasay City

Through: **HONORABLE CHRISTOPHER BONG GO**
Chairperson
Senate Committee on Health and Demography

Attention: **MR. HORACE R. CRUDA**
Committee Secretary

Dear **SENATOR EJERCITO**

This refers to your request for comments and recommendations on the following bills:

Senate Bill (SB) No.	Title	Author
SBN 5, 232, 396, 533, 1840, 1911, House Bill No. 6557	Magna Carta of Barangay Health Workers	Sen. Legarda, Sen. Escudero, Sen. Padilla, Sen. Ejercito, Sen. Poe, Sen. Gatchalian, Sen. Lapid, Reps. Gatchalian, Benitez, Frasco, et al.
SBN 68,84, 427,434, 580, 919, 1393	Appointment of Barangay Health Workers and Providing Benefits	Sen. Cayetano A. P, Sen. Zubiri, Sen. Go, Sen. Dela Rosa, Sen. Hontiveros, Sen. Angara, Sen. Revilla
SBN 488,1170	Holidays for BHWs	Sen. Angara, Sen. Legarda
SBN 1682	Barangay Health Workers and Services Reform	Sen. Tulfo

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) supports the legislative measure in recognition of the vital roles that the Barangay Health Workers (BHWs) play in effectively and efficiently delivering social welfare services to the poor, vulnerable, and marginalized.

BHWs play a crucial role in monitoring the compliance of 4Ps beneficiaries, particularly in health conditions. Incentivizing the BHWs will recognize and enhance their valuable contributions to the community.

In line with the DSWD's move to a progressive nutrition-sensitive program, we propose the following comments and recommendations:

1. On Section 2. Item 8. Declaration of Policy of SBN 5

It is recommended to replace Millennium Development Goals with Sustainable Development Goals.

Likewise, it is generally recommended to include interoperability of the information systems between DSWD and DOH to easily monitor/ automate the compliance of children 0-18 years old for seamless health monitoring/ reporting and provision of appropriate intervention/s.

2. On SBN 1682

It is generally suggested to consider a budgetary inclusion of transportation, meals, and hazard allowance for those BHWs assigned in Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged Areas (GIDAs).

3. Section 7. Roles and Responsibilities of BHW of SBN 1911, 1840 and Section 6 of SBN 5 and 533

It is suggested to include acting as first responders as one of the roles of BHWs in assisting children with chronic health conditions and needs of children (including pregnant and lactating women) who cannot access preventive or curative health services during health emergencies pursuant to the issued referral pathway of the National Child Protection Working Group (NCPWG) during health emergencies.

DSWD will continue to assist BHWs with their various needs following the principle of social protection, which is rights-based and inclusive.

For the Chairperson's consideration.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,



REX GATCHALIAN
Secretary