

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

**SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS**  
1<sup>st</sup> Regular Session

House Bill No. 2566

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	
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Introduced by **Hon. WILTER "SHARKY" WEE PALMA II**

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### EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to mandate the deployment of at least one (1) registered midwife in every barangay in the country.

In a country where poverty remains to be one of the toughest challenges to overcome, poor and unemployed mothers' struggle to find ways of putting a meal on their table is constant. Their health and that of their children take the back seat. These poor mothers are highly at risk of dying due to pregnancy and childbirth because of lack of access to quality health services.

The lack of adequate parental care and access to health services forced pregnant women to give birth in their homes with no skilled birth professional in attendance. These mothers surely do not receive postpartum/postnatal care. In such occurrences, infant and maternal mortality is not uncommon.

Infant and maternal mortality rate are still alarmingly high in the country. Data shows that we have one of the highest maternal mortality rates in the region. According to a data on maternal mortality ratio for the Philippines by World Bank (see: <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SH.STA.MMRT?locations=PH>), the Philippine Maternal Mortality Rate is at 115 per 100,000 live births as of 2015. These new born babies lose their mothers before they even have the ability to open their eyes. A huge improvement from the 162 maternal deaths in 2010 but still a far cry from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) target of reducing it to 52 maternal deaths.

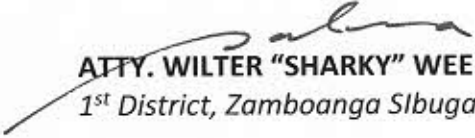
Over the years, the country has seen progress for services and programs for mother and children such as *Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program* (4Ps), public-private partnerships, inter-city health agreements and referral system, national health insurance coverage, enactment of reproductive health law, and healthcare innovations in local government units. Despite the

same, it remains a challenge for the local government units, especially in far flung barangays, to have access to maternal healthcare professionals such as midwives.

This bill seeks to mandate the deployment of at least one (1) registered midwife in every barangay in the country to complement with existing professional medical personnel in the locality. This will ensure that medical personnel will be readily available to provide prenatal and post natal care, breastfeeding support, providing information on the importance of immunization and proper vaccination, care and nutrition for both mothers and infants.

Consequently, this bill seeks to be guided by the recommended ratio of one (1) midwife for every 5,000 population. The number of midwives will also be increased in barangays where the residents exceed 5,000.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this bill is earnestly requested.

  
**ATTY. WILTER "SHARKY" WEE PALMA II**  
*1<sup>st</sup> District, Zamboanga Sibugay*

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House Bill No. 2566

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Introduced By **HON. WILTER "SHARKY" WEE PALMA II**

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**AN ACT**  
**MANDATING THE APPOINTMENT OF ONE MIDWIFE FOR EACH BARANGAY,**  
**AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

**SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known as the “***Midwife to the Barangay Act.***”

**SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to equally protect the life of the mother and the life of the unborn from conception. Likewise, it shall prioritize the right to health of the people and instil health consciousness among them. Pursuant to this, the State shall adopt an integrated approach to health development which shall endeavour to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all peoples.

The State recognizes the vital role played by midwives in reducing maternal and newborn child mortality. Toward this end, this Act shall mandate the appointment of midwives for each barangay to improve our maternal healthcare as well as give our people wider access to health services.

**SECTION 3. Objectives.** - The objectives of this Act are as follows:

- a) To reduce maternal mortality rate (MMR) in the country;
- b) To improve maternal and neonatal health; and
- c) To provide quality and efficient healthcare services, especially in the field of maternal and infant healthcare.

**SECTION 4. Ratio of Midwives to the Barangay.**- It shall be mandatory for all barangays with population exceeding five thousand (5,000) to be equipped with one (1) midwife; *Provided*, that if the population of a barangay exceeds five thousand (5,000), the number of midwives shall be increased, as may be determined by the Department of Health (DOH).

**SECTION 5. Role of Midwives to the Barangay.** – It is the role of the midwife to assess the condition of mothers during their pregnancy, labor, and after birth; monitor and examine pregnant mothers; to assist the pregnant mothers during labor and delivery; make diagnosis and assessment of the mother's condition and shall refer to obstetricians and other specialist in the occurrence of any abnormality; ensure quality and essential health and nutritional care services to both mother and their new born; provide breastfeeding support; providing information on the importance of immunization and vaccination as provided for in the DOH Expanded Program for Immunization.

**SECTION 6. Qualifications of Midwives.** – Within one (1) month from the passage of this Act, DOH shall provide Basic Emergency Obstetric Care and Newborn Care training, or such similar trainings as the DOH may deem necessary, to all midwives to the barangays. Thereafter, the DOH is hereby mandated to provide a Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric Care and Newborn Care training, and such other trainings deemed necessary, at least once in every fiscal year after this Act shall have taken effect.

**SECTION 12. *Separability Clause.*** - If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remainder or any provisions thereof not affected shall remain in force and effect.

**SECTION 13. *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.

**SECTION 14. *Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a national newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*