



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City



EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session
HOUSE REOLUTION NO. 167

Introduced by REP. ANGELICA NATASHA A. CO

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED UN-CEREMONIOUS TERMINATION OF BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS (BHW) BY BARANGAY AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND ITS EFFECT TO THE DELIVERY OF PRIMARY HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

WHEREAS, the Philippine Constitution provides that “the state shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them” It shall “adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost. There shall be a priority for the needs of the under-privileged, sick, elderly, disabled, women, and children. The State shall also endeavor to provide free medical care to paupers.”;

WHEREAS, pursuant to this policy, the government has adopted the Primary Health Care Approach for health empowerment which emphasizes the need to provide accessible and acceptable health services through participatory strategies such as training of barangay health workers, community building and organizing, among others

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 7883, otherwise known as the "Barangay Health Workers' Benefits and Incentives Act of 1995", guarantees the protection and welfare of barangay health workers (BHWs) to ensure that the delivery of primary health services at the community level is not hampered, taking into consideration the lack of health professionals like doctors, nurses and midwives especially in far-flung areas;

WHEREAS, Section 389 (b)(5) of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the “Local Government Code of 1991” mandates the Punong Barangay as the chief executive of the barangay government, shall upon approval by the majority of all the members of the Sangguniang Barangay, appoint or replace the barangay treasurer, barangay secretary, and other barangay appointive officials;

WHEREAS, the Barangay Health and Wellness Partylist has received several complaints regarding the unceremonious termination of barangay health workers (BHW's) by Punong Barangays and other LGU officials. Accordingly, the terminated BHWs are replaced by those who have not undergone any health care training and education contrary to R.A. 7883 which provides that only accredited barangay health workers who have sufficient training, education and career enhancement can deliver primary health care services to our communities;

WHEREAS, the DILG Advisory signed by Secretary Año dated July 19, 2019, enjoined all DILG City Directors, City/Municipal Local Government Operations Officers to:

1. Encourage all Punong Barangay and Sangguniang Barangay Members to reappoint those BHWs, BNS, and BDCWs who were already provided trainings by the national and/or local governments and gained sufficient experiences in the performance of their respective jobs.
2. Remind all Punong Barangays and Sangguniang Barangay Members to continue utilizing the knowledge, skills, and experience of incumbent BHWs, BNS and BDCWs in their respective fields of services in order to avoid the need to train their replacements.
3. Inform all Punong Barangay and Sangguniang Barangay Members that BHWs, BNS and BDCWs may not be reappointed if it is proven that they are performing effectively while in service in the past barangay administration;

WHEREAS, the unceremonious termination of BHWs, if not immediately checked by concerned local government officials, as well as by the DILG and Department of Health, would be tantamount to outright neglect of the peoples' right to health which is the greater issue at hand;

WHEREAS, BHWs are the main stewards and front-liners in promoting and ensuring community health programs and services. Their main function is the prevention of diseases and other basic health concerns. If primary health care at the community level fails, it would lead to greater and more serious health problems which would entail greater resources and expenses that common people and even the government can hardly shoulder or afford;

WHEREAS, there is imperative to institutionalize and strengthen primary health care programs and services by ensuring, among others, the security of tenure of BHWs, BNS AND BCDWs.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved that the House of Representatives direct the Committee on Local Government and the Committee on Health to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the unceremonious termination of BHWs by barangay and local government officials and its effect to the delivery of primary health care programs and services.



REP. ANGELICA NATASHA A. CO
BHW PARTYLIST