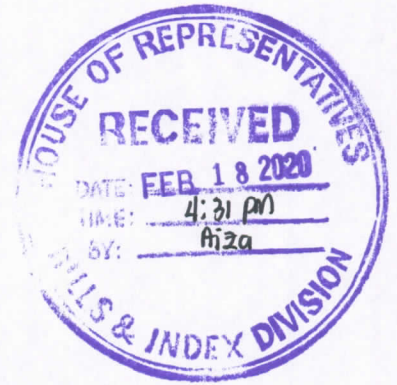


Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. 6322



**INTRODUCED BY
REP. ALFRED VARGAS**

**AN ACT
PROVIDING A HEALTH CARE PROGRAM FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL
TEACHERS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**


EXPLANATORY NOTE

Our rock-bottom performance in the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) showed how low our high school students fared in reading comprehension, math, and science compared to students from other countries. This points to the urgent necessity to ensure that our educators are in the best possible physical and mental condition to attend to the educational needs of our students. While salary adjustment initiatives are underway, ensuring that they get the best health care possible might also prove to be a wise investment.

The passage of the Universal Health Care Act and its subsequent expansion of coverage and funding is indeed commendable. However, pending its full implementation, this bill seeks to immediately address the healthcare woes of public school teachers by providing them with Healthcare Maintenance Organization (HMO) coverage.

We have to invest in the health of those silent heroes who mold the minds of our children and our future: our teachers.

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


ALFRED VARGAS

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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 “Health Care Program for Public School Teachers Act.”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policies.* – The State shall ensure our citizens’ access to quality and affordable health care. In particular, it shall provide public school teachers with access to comprehensive, quality, cost-effective, preventive, and rehabilitative health services.

SECTION 3. *Coverage.* – This Act shall cover all public school teachers under the Department of Education.

SECTION 4. *Healthcare Maintenance.* The Department of Education shall, through competitive bidding which may be done nationally or regionally, procure a contract with a Healthcare Maintenance Organization which is duly recognized and accepted by hospitals all over the country.

SECTION 5. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the immediate implementation of the provisions of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act for the year following the approval of this Act.

SECTION 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Secretary of the Department of Education shall formulate the Implementing Rules and

Regulations (IRR) for the effective implementation of this Act within thirty (30) days from the effectivity of this Act.

SECTION 7. *Separability Clause.* – If any portion or provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 8. *Repealing Clause.* – All provisions of laws, orders, decrees, including rules and regulations inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed and/or modified accordingly.

SECTION 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,