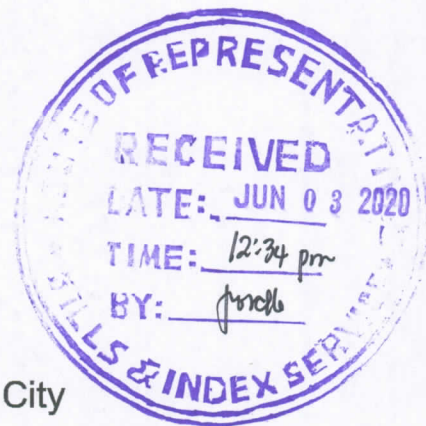




Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Constitution Hills, Batasan Complex, Quezon City



EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 6937

Introduced by **ALFEL M. BASCUG**, Representative,
1ST Legislative District of Agusan del Sur.

**“AN ACT DECLARING MARCH 15 OF EVERY YEAR AS
FRONTLINERS’ DAY IN THE PHILIPPINES”**

Explanatory Note

This bill aims to declare March 15 of every year as a special working holiday to be known as “Frontliners’ Day” in the entire Philippines. This is to give honor and due recognition to the exceptional role and contributions of the frontliner/s who continuously and tirelessly provide vital health and essential services to the people as we experience the current pandemic in order to promote their rights and welfare and to enhance their sense of worth and dignity.

Following the issuance of Proclamation No. 922 s. 2020 declaring a state of public health emergency throughout the Philippines due to CoViD-19 situation, President Rodrigo Duterte placed the entire capital region under Community Quarantine for 30 days starting March 15, 2020. On the next day, the President has issued Enhanced Community Quarantine order covering Metro Manila and the entire Luzon. From then on, provinces outside Luzon have been placed under Community Quarantine. With the issuance of these quarantine orders, guidelines have been set

out and all government agencies and Local Government Units (LGUs) are called to undertake appropriate measures to curtail and eliminate the CoViD-19 threat. At this point, the vital role of our frontliners has been on demand as everyone feared the devastating effects of CoViD-19 pandemic. Hence, while everyone slept soundly with silent fears at night, we have our workers, fighters and defenders who chose to be on the frontline as we battle the contagion of the invisible monster— CoViD-19 pandemic.

As the Philippines wages war against COVID 19, people are advised to stay at home while several workers are on the front lines and have heeded the call to fight this pandemic. Our frontliners had tirelessly worked and continuously sacrificed their lives to protect and ensure the health, safety, security of the Filipino people. Everyday, they come to work facing the hazards brought about by the virus while risking their lives in the process. Sadly, as COVID 19 rises, more frontliners were found to be infected. As of May 12, 2020, the Health department revealed that there were already over 2,000 frontliners who have tested positive for COVID 19. Some have recovered and some have fallen during the battle.

Indeed, we salute all the hard working frontliners. Their services are truly heroic. For years, we used to have this little appreciation to them. Now that as history unfolds and tells us another story worth telling, it is our time to return a simple favor and fervor. We are indeed in the state of the “new normal” and this situation will be the status quo. Eventually, we will always be reminded of these experiences. Hence, we are bounded to live by all our frontliners’ efforts for trying their best to fight this crisis. We are forever grateful to them for staying at work for us while we stay safe amidst this pandemic. Their heroic acts of risking their lives for their fellow citizen and prioritizing the safety of others before themselves is undeniably worthy of honor and due recognition.

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


ALFEL M. BASCUG



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

SECTION 1. Title. – This Act shall be known as the
“**FRONTLINERS’ DAY ACT OF 2020**”.

SECTION 2. Definition. For purposes of this Act, the term
“*frontliner/s*” shall refer to those people who work on the front line and
plays a crucial role in confronting the health crisis during a pandemic or a
state of public health emergency and national emergency situations; and
when such services from fronliner/s are needed. This includes, but not
limited to, healthcare workers, scientists and researchers, journalists and
media personnel, government officials and employees, police force,
military personnel, Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) employees,
employees in grocery stores and pharmacies, employees in banks,
pawnshops and money transfer services, logistic drivers, delivery men,
cleaners, janitors and countless others who are directly involved in health
crisis response efforts.

SECTION 3. Purpose. March 15 of every year is hereby declared as a special working holiday to be known as "Frontliners' Day" to give honor and due recognition to the exceptional role and contributions of the frontliner/s who continuously and tirelessly provide vital health and essential services to our people during a health crisis or in a state of public health emergency and national emergency situations. The objective of this bill is to promote the rights and welfare of the frontliner/s and to enhance their sense of worth and dignity.

SECTION 4. Holiday Activity. To ensure the meaningful observance of the holiday as herein declared, all heads of government agencies and instrumentalities, including government-owned and controlled corporations, as well as local government units, and employers in the private sector, shall encourage and afford sufficient time and opportunities for their employees to engage and participate in any activity to commemorate "Frontliners' Day".

The respective Local Government Units, business operators in the private sector, government offices and agencies of respective localities shall organize the synchronized one-minute clapping of their hands to show appreciation and countless gratitude to each and every frontliner in commemoration of their efforts in helping the Filipino as one nation in battling against CoViD-19.

SECTION 5. Separability Clause. - If any provision of this Act or the application of such provision to any person or circumstance is declared unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or the application of such provision to other person or circumstance shall not be affected by such declaration.

SECTION 6. Repealing Clause. -All laws, decrees, letters of instructions, executive orders and rules and regulations and other issuances or parts thereof in consistent or in conflict with any provision of this Act.

SECTION 7. Effectivity Clause. -This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,