

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

3857

HOUSE BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_



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Introduced by Representative **TYRONE D AGABAS**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This bill seeks to establish a maternal and infant health home visitation program in the country. This has already been approved by the House of Representatives on its 3<sup>rd</sup> and final reading in the 17<sup>th</sup> Congress. However, it has not yet ripened into a law. On account of its importance in protecting the life of the mother and the life of the unborn from conception, this bill is respectfully filed.

Section 11 of the 1987 Constitution provides that "(t)he State values the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human rights". Section 12, Article II thereof also provides that "the State recognizes the sanctity of family life and shall protect and strengthen the family as a basic autonomous social institution. It shall equally protect the life of the mother and the life of the unborn from conception..."

The constitutional mandate prescribing protection of the mother and the unborn from the State is unequivocal. Today, the prevalence of early pregnancy among minors, as young as twelve years of age, is very alarming. Young mothers, unmarried as they are, indubitably expose themselves to the challenges of rearing their children at their juvenile age. Without government intervention, the risk of maternal and infant mortality is high especially to families of the poor and the marginalized.

Through the maternal and infant health home visitation program, the mother and the child will be given better protection and an opportunity to a healthy life.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop followed by a horizontal stroke and a small flourish.

ATTY. TYRONE D. AGABAS  
Representative  
6<sup>th</sup> District, Pangasinan

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**

First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3857

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Introduced by Representative **TYRONE D. AGABAS**  
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AN ACT  
ESTABLISHING A MATERNAL AND INFANT HEALTH HOME VISITATION  
PROGRAM

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

1       SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Expanded Maternal  
2       and Infant Care Act”.

3       SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is a policy of the State to equally protect the  
4       life of the mother and the life of the unborn from conception. In line with this  
5       policy, the State shall, in addition to maternity care services provided in  
6       health facilities, administer prenatal and postnatal maternity and infant care  
7       services under a home visitation program in order to protect the health and  
8       well-being of mothers and infants.

9       SEC. 3. *Definition of Term* – As used in this Act, the term “poor” shall refer to  
10       income brackets that fall below the poverty threshold defined by the  
11       Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) based on the most recent Family Income  
12       and Expenditure Survey (FIES).



13 SEC. 4. *Establishment of Maternal and Infant Health Home Visitation Program.*  
14 – The Secretary of the Department of Health (DOH) shall require health centers  
15 to designate an appropriate health professional or a qualified nonprofessional  
16 acting under the supervision of a health care professional who shall render  
17 maternal and infant care services in the home of eligible individuals.

18 SEC. 5. *Eligibility to Avail of Home Visitation Services.* – A pregnant woman  
19 not more than twenty-one (21) years old, or families with an infant up to the age  
20 of one (1) year, belonging to the low-income brackets below the poverty  
21 threshold shall be eligible to receive the maternal and infant care services  
22 provided under this Act.

23 Sec. 6. *Maternal and Infant Health Services.* – The maternal and infant care  
24 services that shall be provided in the home of eligible individuals shall  
25 include the following:

- 26 (a) Instruction and counseling concerning all aspects of prenatal care,  
27 childbirth, and motherhood;
- 28 (b) Nutrition counseling;
- 29 (c) General family counseling, including child and family development;  
30 and
- 31 (d) Physical examination or referral for further medical care for a mother  
32 and/or infant.

33 Sec. 7. *Prohibition on Abortion.* – Any maternal and infant care service which  
34 shall be made available under this Act shall not be constructed to  
35 advocate, promote, or encourage abortion.

36 SEC. 8. *Separability Clause* – If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or  
37 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision or part not otherwise  
38 affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

39 SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance,  
40 executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule, or regulation  
41 contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed,  
42 modified or amended accordingly.

43 SEC. 10. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
44 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

45 Approved,