

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City



EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 718

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Introduced by Honorable Lucy Marie Torres-Gomez

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

It is of vital importance that pregnant women take good care of themselves to ensure their good health and that of their babies. Pregnant women should always seek proper medical service before, during and after delivery.

Local health records show that mortality among mothers and infants are much higher among mothers who did not undergo any pre-natal care or did not seek medical assistance at time of delivery. Undetected illnesses of mothers during pregnancy pose certain risk of complications that can lead to potentially serious consequences for both the mother and the baby. These incidents usually happen to rural and urban poor families.

The establishment of birthing center in every barangay nationwide will address the medical needs of our pregnant women especially those whose family income is below the poverty line.

Hence, approval of this bill is earnestly recommended.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lucy Torres-Gomez".

LUCY TORRES-GOMEZ

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
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EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS  
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HOUSE BILL NO. **718**

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**AN ACT**  
**PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BIRTHING CENTER IN**  
**EVERY BARANGAY NATIONWIDE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS**  
**THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. A birthing center is hereby established in every barangay nationwide under the supervision of the Department of Health. Birthing centers shall provide free medical services and assistance to pregnant women.

SEC. 2. The Center shall have the following personnel:

a. One (1) physician who is a bonafide member of the medical profession;  
and

b. Two (2) midwives who shall have rendered at least two (2) years of excellent performance appraisal for their service in any government hospital or private health institution.

SEC. 3 The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged to the appropriations of the Department of Health. Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for the continued operation and maintenance of the birthing centers shall be included in the annual budget of the respective city or municipality where the birthing centers are located.

SEC. 4. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jy. Inup", is written over the word "Approved,".