

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9416



Introduced by Hon. John Marvin "Yul Servo" C. Nieto

EXPLANATORY NOTE

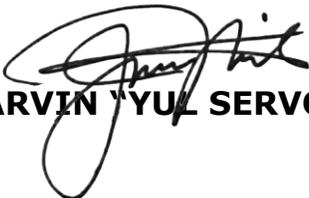
The global pandemic brought about several community quarantines in the country in order to reduce and mitigate the spread of the deadly virus. The imposition of these community quarantine restrictions has forced the educational sector and institutions to adapt to the current situation by shifting to an alternative learning set up. This alternative set up included the use of modules and virtual learning platforms.

At the present, the Inter-Agency Task Force for Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases allowed a number of medical schools to resume face to face clinical internship for the study of medicine had science courses that cannot be taught in alternative learning set up; courses that require students to learn practical and technical skills that only be taught through a face-to-face clinical instruction.

It is important that we protect and guarantee the safety our students and teachers in the field of medicine for it is undeniable that they need further government support; being on frontlines in saving many lives during this pandemic.

This bill seeks to classify students and teachers of medical and allied health courses as frontline health workers, provided that, they belong to school and universities approved by the Commission on Higher Education to conduct limited face-to-face classes. It is the primary intention of this bill that they be included in the priority list for the COVID-19 vaccination.

In light of the foregoing, the approval of this measure is earnestly sought.


JOHN MARVIN "YUL SERVO" C. NIETO

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HOUSE BILL NO. 9416

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AN ACT CLASSIFYING STUDENTS AND TEACHERS OF MEDICINE AND ALLIED HEALTH SCIENCES COURSES WHO ATTEND FACE-TO-FACE CLASSES AS FRONTLINE HEALTH WORKERS THEREBY INCLUDING THEM AMONG THOSE PRIORITIZED GROUPS FOR CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19) VACCINATION

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be referred to as the "Classifying Students and Teachers of Medicine and Allied Health Sciences as Frontliners Act".

SEC 2. Declaration of Policy. – The State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being. It is also the policy of the State to adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development. Towards this end, it is vital for the State to invest on health workers in order to ensure better access to and enhanced quality of health services in the country.

SEC. 3. Students and Teachers of Medicine and Allied Health Sciences as Frontline Health Workers. – The Department of Health (DOH) shall classify students and teachers of medicine and allied health sciences who are required to attend face-to-face classes in schools and universities and/or who are fulfilling their internship requirements in hospitals, clinics and other health-related establishments as frontline health workers.

SEC.4. Priority in COVID-19 Vaccination. - Being classified as frontline health workers, these students and teachers shall then be included among those prioritized groups for COVID 19 vaccination.

SEC. 5. Limitation. – The benefit given by this Act shall be limited to those students and teachers belonging to schools and universities allowed by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) to conduct limited face-to-face classes. CHED shall conduct regular inspections in such schools and universities in order to ensure that health protocols are being followed.

SEC. 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - Within sixty (60) days from its approval, the DOH, in coordination with the CHED, shall formulate and promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 7. Separability Clause. – If, for any reason, any part, section or provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in force and effect.

SEC. 8. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules and regulations and other issuances, or part or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 9. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation, whichever comes earlier.

Approved,