

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 4645



INTRODUCED BY REP. PM VARGAS

AN ACT
DECLARING THE LAST FULL WEEK OF AUGUST OF EVERY YEAR
AS THE “NATIONAL FRONTLINERS WEEK” IN THE ENTIRE COUNTRY

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Doctors, nurses, and other medical professionals have been at risk ever since the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic began. Likewise, many other frontline workers have fought to keep essential services for our communities in motion during this public health emergency. Some, unfortunately, have given their lives and have died in the line of duty. They are heroes in one of the darkest times in the history of our country's public health. It is only just that we recognize these sacrifices and memorialize the heroes of our country for their noble acts.

As we celebrate the National Heroes Day on August 31 of every year, we dedicate that last full week of August to those who have heeded the call for public service in a time when our public health was in a great emergency.

As one country, we must pay homage to the heroism and nobility of our frontliners who have braved to be at the vanguard of service in a very challenging time. This is for those who have dedicated their lives, and continue to do so in spite of great risks. It pays to remember their sacrifices and learn from this experience in order to move forward.

This bill seeks to provide recognition to our frontline workers and their strength and courage to continue the fight in the delivery of essential services to keep most of their fellow Filipinos out of harm's way.

This proposed measure is for our brave heroes who work in public or private establishments providing essential services, including but not limited to food, water, banking and financial services, utilities, medicine, security, maintenance and sanitation, as well as any person providing services under circumstances that increase risk of exposure to COVID-19, including administrative, security, maintenance, and support staff of health and quarantine facilities.

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



REP. PM VARGAS

Fifth District, Quezon City

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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 “The National Frontliners Week Act.”

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. – In recognition of Filipino heroism through the hard work and sacrifices of our frontline workers, the last full week of August of every year is hereby declared as the “National Frontliners Week.”

SECTION 3. Objectives of the Policy. – The National Frontliners Week aims to:

- (a) Recognize the significant contributions of frontline workers, such as the healthcare workers, pharmacists, energy, water and other utility sector employees, logistic workers, storekeepers, grocery and delivery workers, bank employees, security guards, garbage collectors, media people, social workers, police and military personnel, local government, unit employees, barangay officials, government workers, and other frontline workers, in providing basic services for the essential needs of the public, especially during a pandemic and other crises;
- (b) Highlight the heroism of our frontline workers in protecting public welfare and keeping the country going during times of calamities, disasters and other crises;
- (c) Give distinction to major and commendable efforts, response and measures undertaken by our frontline workers, particularly our local government unit and barangay officials and employees; and

- (d) Institutionalize the annual celebration that gives honor to our frontline workers for their essential role and heroic response to the needs of the Filipino people.

SECTION 4. *Lead Agency.* – The Department of Health, the Department of Labor and Employment, and the Department of Interior and Local Government, as the lead, in coordination with the Civil Service Commission and other government agencies, are mandated to conduct activities and programs that promotes the principles and values espoused by our frontline workers as well as those that underscores, honors and/or rewards our frontline workers for their essential role in nation building and for their significant contribution in protecting public welfare.

SECTION 5. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into law, and every year thereafter, as may be necessary.

SECTION 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Health, the Department of Labor and Employment and the Civil Service Commission shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act. Such rules and regulations shall take effect immediately thereafter.

SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause.* – Any laws, decrees, ordinances or rules and regulations which are inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act is hereby amended or repealed.

SECTION 8. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,