



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila



TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1913

Introduced by Representative FRANZ S. PUMAREN

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 11, Article XIII of the 1987 Constitution provides for the adoption of "an integrated and comprehensive approach to make essential goods, health, and other social services available to all people at affordable cost."

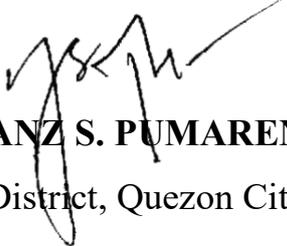
Reports from the Department of Health show that one in four Filipino children is stunted. Defined as being short-for-age, stunting is attributed to chronic undernutrition, frequent infections, and inadequate psychosocial stimulation. While stunting is physically manifested, it is not merely a matter of height as it uncovers a deeper issue, the severe and irreversible impairment of the physical and cognitive development of Filipino children. This development impairment has long-term effect on health, educational attainment, and population productivity which then contribute to the entrenchment of the intergenerational cycle of poverty.

This proposed measure seeks to strengthen the role of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) in addressing childhood stunting. As one of the flagship poverty alleviation programs, 4Ps is uniquely positioned to tackle the multidimensionality of stunting through the combination of short-term and long-term strategies through cash transfers and behavioral conditionalities, respectively.

With rising food prices and nutritional insecurity affecting millions of Filipino households, regular recalibration of the grant structure and institutional support ensure that it more effectively contributes to child health and nutrition.

This bill proposes the following amendments to the 4Ps Act: (1) increase in health and nutrition grants to help households sustain food quantity and quality, for the nutritional needs of children; (2) institutionalize rice subsidy to ensure predictable access to a staple food item critical to food security; and (3) shortening the periodic assessment cycle from six years to three years to enable program responsiveness in the sufficiency of cash grants based on prevailing economic conditions.

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



FRANZ S. PUMAREN
3rd District, Quezon City



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**AN ACT
EXPANDING THE PANTAWID PAMILYANG PILIPINO PROGRAM
(4Ps), AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11310,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS “AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE
PANTAWID PAMILYANG PILIPINO PROGRAM (4Ps),” AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES**

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

1 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known as the “Pantawid at
2 Pagkain ng Pamilyang Pilipino Program (5Ps) Act”.

3 **SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** – It is declared policy of the State to
4 promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and
5 independence of the nation, and free the people from poverty through policies
6 that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard
7 of living, and an improved quality of life for all; to defend and promote the right

1 of children to assistance including proper care and nutrition, and special
2 protection from all forms of neglect, abuse, cruelty, exploitation, and other
3 conditions prejudicial to their development.

4 The State further declares its determination to eliminate hunger and to
5 reduce all forms of malnutrition; that, hunger and malnutrition are unacceptable
6 to end this human catastrophe.

7 The State maintains that nutrition is both an end-goal and a means to
8 achieve development. It is a multi-factorial concern requiring inputs from all
9 sectors. As such, nutrition shall be a priority of the government to be implemented
10 by all its branches in collaboration with non-government organizations and the
11 private sector in an integrated manner with a focus on nutritionally and
12 economically depressed areas, communities, and households.

13 **SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.*** As used in this Act, the following terms are
14 defined as follows:

15 xxx

16 **(O) STUNTING REFERS TO CHRONIC**
17 **UNDERNUTRITION DURING THE MOST CRITICAL PERIODS**
18 **OF GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT IN EARLY LIFE. IT IS**
19 **DEFINED AS PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN AGED ZERO (0) TO**
20 **FIFTY-NINE (59) MONTHS WHOSE HEIGHT AND AGE IS**
21 **BELOW MINUS TWO (-2) SD (STANDARD DECIATION) FOR**
22 **MODERATE STUNTING AND MINUS THREE (-3) SD FOR**
23 **SEVERE STUNTING FROM THE MEDIAN OF THE WORLD**
24 **HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO) GROWTH STANDARDS.**

25 **SEC. 4.** Section 7 of Republic Act No. 11310, otherwise known as “An
26 Act Institutionalizing the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps), is hereby
27 amended to read as follows:

28 “SEC. 7. *Conditional Cash Transfer to Beneficiaries* – xxx

29 “(a) xxx

1 “(b) xxx

2 “(c) xxx

3 “(d) Health and nutrition grant shall not be lower than [Seven
4 hundred fifty pesos (P750.00)] **ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED**
5 **PESOS (P1,800.00)** per month for a maximum of twelve (12) months per
6 year.

7 “(E) **RICE SUBSIDY SHALL NOT BE LOWER THAN SIX**
8 **HUNDRED PESOS (P600.00) PER MONTH FOR A MAXIMUM OF**
9 **TWELVE (12) MONTHS PER YEAR.**

10 “The [health/nutrition] **HEALTH AND NUTRITION** grant
11 component aims to promote [health] **HEALTHY** practices and family
12 development, improve the health nutritional status of pregnant and post-
13 partum mothers, infants, and young children, **ADDRESS THE HIGH**
14 **PREVALENCE OF STUNTING**, and increase the use of health services
15 by the household-beneficiary. The health **AND NUTRITION** grant is a
16 fixed amount and does not depend on the number of members in the
17 household

18 “**THE RICE SUBSIDY COMPONENT AIMS TO EASE THE**
19 **FINANCIAL BURDEN OF HOUSEHOLD-BENEFICIARIES AND**
20 **INCREASE THEIR FOOD SECURITY. THE RICE SUBSIDY IS A**
21 **FIXED AMOUNT AND DOES NOT DEPEND ON THE NUMBER**
22 **OF CHILDREN IN THE HOUSEHOLD.”**

23 **SEC. 5.** Section 10 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

24 “**SEC. 10. Periodic Assessment.** – Every three (3) years after the
25 effectivity of this Act, the Philippine Institute for Development Studies
26 (PIDS) shall conduct an impact assessment to evaluate the effectiveness of
27 the 4Ps, the veracity of the list of household-beneficiaries and the program
28 implementation.

1 “The amounts indicated in Section 7 of this Act shall be made
2 available to the qualified household-beneficiaries during the first three (3)
3 years of the implementation of this Act: *Provided*, That every [six (6)]
4 **THREE (3)** years after the effectivity of this Act, the PIDS shall
5 recommend to the NAC whether the cash grants shall be adjusted to its
6 present value using the consumer price index, as published by the PSA:
7 *Provided, further*, That the NAC shall ensure that the grant amounts are
8 sufficient to make a positive impact on the health, nutrition, and education
9 of the beneficiaries and are timely received and spent by the beneficiaries.”

10 **SEC. 6. Appropriations.** – The amount necessary for the initial
11 implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year’s
12 appropriations of the DSWD. Thereafter, such amount shall be included in the
13 annual General Appropriations Act.

14 **SEC. 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within ninety (90) days
15 from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of the DSWD shall, in coordination
16 with appropriate government departments and agencies with the participation of
17 the local government units, promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to
18 carry out the provisions of this Act.

19 **SEC. 8. Separability Clause.** – If any provision of this Act is held invalid
20 or unconstitutional, other provisions not affected thereby shall remain to be in full
21 force and effect.

22 **SEC. 9. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and
23 regulations, inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act are hereby
24 repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,