

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City
TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 2313

Introduced by **REP. BERNADETTE "DETTE" G. ESCUDERO**

**AN ACT
TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN HEALTH AND NUTRITION FILIPINO MOTHERS
AND THEIR CHILDREN, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT
(R.A.) NO. 11310, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "PANTAWID PAMILYANG
PILIPINO PROGRAM (4Ps) ACT"**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Constitution, specifically Article II, Section 15, guarantees the right to health, which includes promoting and protecting the health of pregnant and lactating mothers and their children.

From conception to a child's second birthday, the "First 1,000 Days" of life represent a crucial period for growth and development. According to the Philippine Pediatric Society, "the right nutrition delivered at the right time within this 1,000-day window can have a profound impact on a child's ability to grow, learn, and rise out of poverty."

The enactment of Republic Act No. 11148, otherwise known as the *Kalusugan at Nutrisyon ng Mag-Nanay Act*, stands as a concrete expression of the State's commitment to its constitutional mandate to prioritize the nutrition and well-being of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women, infants, and young children. The law mandates a coordinated and integrated implementation across all levels and branches of government, anchored on a whole-of-government approach and undertaken in partnership with civil society organizations and the private sector. Through this law, the government scales up nutrition intervention programs during the first one thousand (1,000) days of a child's life, and allows for the sustainable allocation of resources to improve nutritional status and address malnutrition among infants and young children aged zero (0) to two (2) years, adolescent females, and pregnant and lactating women, as well as to ensure the healthy growth and development of infants and young children.

Despite the enactment of the law, prevailing data and persistent appeals from advocacy groups underscore the urgent need to strengthen its implementation and expand its nationwide coverage. Currently, malnutrition remains a pressing public health crisis, with an alarming average of 95 child deaths per day attributed to undernutrition.

Further, statistical records reveal that 27 out of every 1,000 Filipino children do not survive beyond the age of five, while approximately 33 percent are stunted—an indicator of chronic undernutrition. According to the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), stunting during early childhood impairs cognitive development and educational attainment, limits future earning potential, and diminishes national productivity.

Through this proposed measure, we seek to institutionalize the provision of a monthly cash grant and increase the amount to Php 400 to pregnant women and children aged 0 to 2 years from qualified households under the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) nationwide. This grant shall serve as a targeted investment during the critical First 1,000 Days (F1KD) of a child’s life.

To be eligible for the monthly F1KD cash grant, beneficiaries must comply with the program’s conditionalities, which include:

- 1) Accessing pre-natal care at Department of Health (DOH)-accredited health facilities;
- 2) Receiving ante-natal care services and undergoing regular pregnancy tracking;
- 3) Giving birth at a DOH-accredited health facility;
- 4) Attending post-natal check-ups;
- 5) Participating in counseling sessions; and
- 6) Ensuring the administration of required micronutrient supplements and age-appropriate immunizations for the child.

By implementing these health and nutrition conditionalities, this bill aims to safeguard maternal and child well-being, reduce preventable deaths, and support the long-term development of the nation’s future human capital. The grant shall be extended to a maximum of three (3) children per qualified household-beneficiary, provided that the aforementioned conditionalities are consistently met.

Research conducted by Nobel Laureate economist James Heckman affirms that every one dollar invested in early childhood development yields a return ranging from four to sixteen dollars in long-term economic and social benefits. This humble representation firmly believes that a deliberate and sustained investment in the First 1,000 Days is key to securing a brighter, healthier, and more prosperous future for the Filipino people. By investing in their health and education, particularly within the critical window of the first 1,000 days of life, the government ensures that children are afforded the opportunity to develop into healthy, productive members of society. Moreover, adequate nutrition and early health interventions during this formative period serve to prevent chronic illnesses and disabilities, thereby reducing long-term health expenditures and easing the fiscal burden on our national health system.

In view of the foregoing, the expeditious approval of this measure is respectfully sought.



HON. BERNADETTE "DETTE" G. ESCUDERO

Representative
1st District, Sorsogon

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

1 **Section 1.** SECTION 1. Section 7 of the same Act is amended to read as
2 follows:

3 "SEC. 7. *Conditional Cash Transfer to Beneficiaries.* – The Advisory
4 Council shall determine the amount of conditional cash transfer to
5 beneficiaries with the following schemes:

6
7 (a) Conditional cash transfer grant per child enrolled in day care
8 and elementary programs shall not be lower than Three Hundred
9 (P300.00 pesos per month per child for a maximum of ten (10) months
10 per year;

11
12 (b) Conditional cash transfer grant per child enrolled in junior
13 high school shall not be lower than Five hundred pesos (P500.00) per
14 month per child for a maximum of ten (10) months per year;

15
16 (c) Conditional cash transfer grant per child enrolled in senior
17 high school shall not be lower than Seven hundred pesos (700.00) per
18 month per child for a maximum of ten (10) months per year;

19
20 (d) Health and nutrition grant shall not be lower than Seven
21 hundred fifty pesos (750.00) per month for a maximum of twelve (12)
22 months per year;

23

1 (D) FIRST 1,000 DAYS (F1KD) GRANT PER CHILDREN AGED 0 TO 2
2 YEARS OLD SHALL NOT BE LOWER FOUR HUNDRED PESOS (400.00) PER
3 MONTH FOR A MAXIMUM OF TWELVE (12) MONTHS PER YEAR;
4

5 A MAXIMUM OF THREE (3) CHILDREN PER QUALIFIED HOUSEHOLD-
6 BENEFICIARY SHALL BE GIVEN WITH THE AFOREMENTIONED CONDITIONAL
7 CASH GRANTS.
8

9 **Sec. 2. Separability Clause.** – If any provision of this Act or the application
10 of such provision to any person or circumstance is declared invalid, the remainder of
11 the Act or the application of such provision to other persons or circumstances shall
12 not be affected thereby.

13 **Sec. 3. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, administrative issuances, rules
14 and regulations, and orders or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are deemed
15 repealed or modified accordingly.

16 **Sec. 4. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following
17 the completion of its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) national
18 newspapers of general circulation, whichever comes first.
19

20 *Adopted,*