

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )



'22 JUL 12 A9:00

S. B. No. 304

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INTRODUCED BY SENATOR ALAN PETER "COMPAÑERO" S. CAYETANO

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AN ACT  
PROVIDING FOR THE CREATION OF SUPER HEALTH CENTERS IN EVERY CITY  
AND MUNICIPALITY, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Filipinos take pride in their resiliency and adaptiveness regardless of the challenges they face here in the country and in different parts of the globe. However, despite our resilience, we should aspire for world class health and educational services and institutions. This cannot be overemphasized. In the past few years, we have focused on building hospitals / tertiary care facilities which are good and beneficial to our people, but it is time to go back to the basics - where prevention is better than cure. Hence, the country should invest more in primary healthcare.

At the onset of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, 40% of the country's nurses have resigned.<sup>1</sup> Latest data from the Department of Health shows that the overall bed occupancy rate of hospitals reached 131%. 3 out of 4 hospitals have occupancy rates exceeding its authorized bed capacity.<sup>2</sup> Some hospitals are understaffed and clogged with the increasing number of patients day by day. The Philippines has only over a thousand hospitals and a few would operate 24 hours a day.

This bill proposes the creation of Super Health Centers in every city and municipality in the country, envisioned to actualize constitutional policies on health. To wit, Section 15 of Article II of the 1987 Constitution provides that "[t]he State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them."

The passage of this bill will help strengthen our primary health care system and increase its accessibility to the people. These centers will operate 24/7 and will provide various medical services to the people (including specialized services), concentrating mainly on those who have low-risk, less serious or uncomplicated cases. The Super Health Centers can help ease the burden for patients who are compelled to go to farther hospitals for basic treatments or check ups.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9126038/>

<sup>2</sup> [https://doh.gov.ph/sites/default/files/publications/DOH-Hospitals-Profile\\_0.pdf](https://doh.gov.ph/sites/default/files/publications/DOH-Hospitals-Profile_0.pdf)

To date, the City of Taguig has four (4) 24/7 Super Health Centers. These Super Health Centers have been offering basic medical facilities, with free consultation, anti-rabies injections, laboratory, dental, breastfeeding, child delivery, and ambulance services among others. Quality care is also ensured by duly licensed doctors, nurses, midwives, and Barangay Health Workers (BHWs). Taguig residents are a testament to the successes of these Super Health Centers for the easy access and quality primary care it promised and continues to fulfill, as they hail the accessibility and assistance they get, especially in medical emergencies.

Having Super Health Centers in every city or municipality will contribute to the national government's mandate of delivering a comprehensive and accessible health care within the reach of the people. The enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health should not only be a constitutional dictum or remain an aspiration, but must actually be realized for the benefit of every Filipino.

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



**ALAN PETER "COMPAÑERO" S. CAYETANO**



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OTHER PURPOSES

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

1           **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the *"Super Health*  
2 *Centers in All Cities and Municipalities Act."*  
3

4           **SEC. 2. Statement of Policy.** – Section 15 of Article II of the 1987  
5 Constitution provides that "[t]he State shall protect and promote the right to  
6 health of the people and instill health consciousness among them." On the other  
7 hand, Section 16 of Article II provides that "[t]he State shall protect and advance  
8 the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the  
9 rhythm and harmony of nature."  
10

11           Healthcare that is based on practical, scientifically-sound and socially  
12 acceptable methods and technology should be made universally accessible to  
13 individuals and families in every city and municipality in the country. It is  
14 therefore the bounden duty of the State to build world class but accessible and  
15 affordable health and educational facilities throughout the country that provide  
16 excellent services to the Filipino people.  
17

18           **SEC. 3. Definition of Terms.** –

- 19           a. "Primary health services" or "primary health care" shall mean the initial  
20 contact of an individual with an accessible and coordinated health  
21 system to manage health problems or issues that are less severe or  
22 uncomplicated, including, but not limited to the following:  
23           i.     Diagnosis and treatment of health problems;  
24           ii.    Prevention of health problems;  
25           iii.   Early intervention; and

- 1           iv. Managing ongoing and long-term conditions.  
2           b. "Super Health Center" shall mean an accessible and fully equipped health  
3           hub that delivers primary health services and caters to less severe,  
4           uncomplicated or out-patient health care services.  
5

6           **SEC. 4. Establishment of Super Health Centers.** – Each city and  
7           municipality shall establish at least one Super Health Center within its territorial  
8           jurisdiction. The Super Health Centers shall have the following minimum  
9           standards:  
10

- 11           a) Facilities, rooms, and spaces which are accessible, especially to the elderly  
12           and Persons with Disability, and with appropriate signage;  
13           b) Basic health equipment and facilities appropriate for the provision of  
14           primary health services;  
15           c) Data and information management system that shall contain, store, and  
16           secure the health and other relevant data of the patients, in accordance with  
17           the provisions of the Data Privacy Act.  
18

19           The Department of Health (DOH), in coordination with the Department of  
20           Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), shall issue guidelines for the proper  
21           implementation of this Act, and shall provide assistance to cities and  
22           municipalities in establishing the Super Health Centers. Medical services provided  
23           within the Super Health Centers and their providers shall be accredited by the  
24           Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth).  
25

26           **SEC. 5. Staffing.** – All Super Health Centers established under this Act shall  
27           have such sufficient number of staffing as determined by the DOH, dependent on  
28           the population of the city or municipality concerned.  
29

30           The LGU concerned shall hire all Super Health Center staff as job order,  
31           casual, contractual, or regular employees. Barangay health workers currently  
32           serving the city or municipality shall be given preference in the hiring under this  
33           Act.  
34

35           **SEC. 6. Services.** – All Super Health Centers established under this Act shall  
36           be equipped with the most basic facilities that can cater to less severe,  
37           uncomplicated, and/or out-patient health care services.  
38

39           **SEC. 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).** – Within 60 days  
40           upon the approval of this Act, the DOH, in coordination with the DSWD, the  
41           Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), and the Department of the  
42           Interior and Local Government, shall prepare and issue such rules and regulations  
43           necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act.  
44

1           Thereafter, the DPWH shall ensure the commencement of the creation of  
2 Super Health Centers within the fiscal year after appropriating the budget  
3 therefore.  
4

5           **SEC. 8. Appropriations.** – The amount necessary to carry out the  
6 provisions of this Act shall be appropriated from the General Appropriations Act  
7 of the year following its enactment, and every year thereafter.  
8

9           **SEC. 9. Separability Clause.** – If any part or provision of this Act is declared  
10 invalid or unconstitutional, the other parts hereof not affected thereby shall  
11 remain valid.  
12

13           **SEC. 10. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, acts, presidential decrees, executive  
14 orders, administrative orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with or contrary  
15 to the provisions of this Act are deemed amended, modified or repealed  
16 accordingly.  
17

18           **SEC. 11. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
19 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*