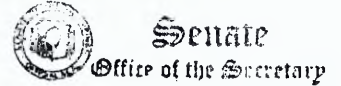


NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



'22 JUL 18 P1:50

SENATE
S. No. 713

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

AN ACT
APPROPRIATING THE AMOUNT OF ONE BILLION PESOS
(PHP1,000,000,000.00) TO THE CANCER ASSISTANCE FUND,
ESTABLISHED UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11215 OR THE "NATIONAL
INTEGRATED CANCER CONTROL ACT", FOR THE BENEFIT OF INDIGENT
AND UNDERPRIVILEGED CANCER PATIENTS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Claiming thousands of lives each year, and amounting to several billions of pesos in healthcare and treatment cost, cancer has become a serious public health issue as well as an economic burden.

In the Philippines, cancer is the fourth leading cause of death following ischemic heart diseases, cerebrovascular diseases, and deaths due to the COVID-19 virus in 2021. According to the Cancer Coalition of the Philippines, cancer patients who contract the COVID-19 virus is 16 times more critical than COVID-19 patients without cancer¹. The incidence and mortality rate of cancer in the Philippines has been increasing in the past three decades. This trend is expected to continue if organized and sustained specialized cancer is not initiated.

The cost of chemotherapy and radiation treatments for cancer patients may range from Php20,000 to Php120,000 per session depending on the type po cancer. The examination by Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) is burdensome even to middle-income patients, what more to the poor patients. This is why cancer has gained a reputation as the disease for the rich even though it can afflict anybody regardless of economic status.

In 2019, Republic Act No. 11215 or the National Integrated Cancer Control Act was signed into law. It seeks to prevent cancer and improve cancer survivorship by scaling up programs and investments for better and accurate screening, detection, diagnosis, treatment, care and rehabilitation. It also aims to make cancer treatment and care more affordable especially to underprivileged Filipinos.

¹ <https://mb.com.ph/2022/02/14/chiz-urges-doh-to-make-sure-cancer-fund-goes-to-patients-not-diverted/>

Said law provides for a Cancer Assistance Fund but no amount has been specifically allocated for it and relies on fund raising activities, donations and solicitations. This measure seeks to appropriate One Billion pesos (Php1,000,000,000.00) annually to the Cancer Assistance Fund to assist in the medicine and treatment of indigent and underprivileged cancer patients.

The Constitution provides for the right to health of the people. It is time for the less fortunate to get the opportunity to fight cancer despite lack of resources.

For this reason, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


GRACE POE
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Senate
Office of the Secretary

22 JUL 18 P1 50

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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 "Cancer Assistance
2 Act".

3 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is a declared policy of the State to protect
4 and promote the right to health of the people. For this purpose, the State shall
5 implement a system of providing premium care and assistance to indigent cancer
6 patients and their families.

7 Sec. 3. *Assistance to Indigent Cancer Patients.* – This program shall be
8 administered by the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) to support
9 the cancer medicine and treatment assistance to indigent and underprivileged cancer
10 patient beneficiaries identified by the PhilHealth in coordination with the Department
11 of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and the Department of Interior and
12 Local Government (DILG).

13 Sec. 4. *Appropriations.* – The amount of One Billion Pesos
14 (Php1,000,000,000.00) shall be appropriated for the initial implementation of this
15 Act to be sourced from any applicable appropriation items under the current General
16 Appropriations Act. For the succeeding years, the amount shall be sourced from the

1 budget of the Department of Health under the National Integrated Cancer Control
2 Program.

3 *Sec. 5. Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The PhilHealth, in consultation
4 with the DSWD and DILG and the representatives from hospital association, medical
5 practitioners and civil society representing peasant and/or the marginalized sector
6 shall formulate the necessary rules and regulations within ninety (90) days from the
7 effectivity of this Act.

8 *Sec. 6. Separability Clause.* – If, for any reason, any part, section or provision
9 of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions not affected
10 thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

11 *Sec. 7. Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules, regulations and
12 other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act
13 are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,