

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

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**SENATE**  
**S. No. 2234**

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Introduced by Senator MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID

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**AN ACT**  
**PROVIDING FOR FREE HEMODIALYSIS, PERITONEAL DIALYSIS, AND**  
**OTHER DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH APPROVED DIALYSIS PROCEDURES**  
**TO ALL SENIOR CITIZENS**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

In the Philippines, the need to access dialysis has increased by 400% in the past 10 years with Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) becoming one of the leading causes of death among Filipino senior citizens.

With all the risk and death associated with kidney disease, what is truly saddening is that these risks are avoidable and these deaths are preventable with proper access to treatment such as, hemodialysis, peritoneal dialysis, and other Department of Health ("DOH") approved dialysis procedures.

Unfortunately, what could have been an avoidable risk and a preventable death are not avoided and prevented because the dialysis sessions that are subsidized by the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation ("PhilHealth") under PhilHealth Circular No. 22-2015 is only 90 out of the needed 144 dialysis sessions. This means that senior citizens who are at high risk of developing serious complications and becoming a fatality due to kidney disease are still required to pay for the remaining 54 sessions. Thus, for our senior citizens with kidney disease to survive, they need a total of PHP 135,000 per year.

The senior citizens of our country are facing significant economic hardships. Many retired individuals find it difficult to cover their basic needs, including healthcare expenses. As our elderly population grows, it becomes increasingly crucial to develop programs that address their specific healthcare requirements.

Free dialysis services would ensure that senior citizens have access to the life-sustaining treatment they need. This initiative would help prevent unnecessary suffering and premature deaths among elderly individuals suffering from CKD.

The high cost of dialysis treatments also often forces senior citizens to choose between their health and meeting their basic needs. Providing free dialysis services would ease their financial burden, allowing them to allocate their limited resources to other essential expenses like food, shelter, and medication.

Dialysis treatments are time-consuming and can take a toll on a person's physical and emotional well-being. By eliminating the financial burden associated with dialysis, senior citizens would experience an improvement in their quality of life. They would have the opportunity to focus on their health and engage in activities that bring them joy and fulfillment.

Finally, regular dialysis treatments are crucial to preventing complications associated with kidney failure. By providing free dialysis services, we can help senior citizens manage their condition effectively, reducing the likelihood of hospitalizations and emergency medical interventions. This, in turn, would result in substantial cost savings for both individuals and the healthcare system.

Ensuring that senior citizens have access to free dialysis services sends a powerful message of social inclusion and respect for the elderly population. It acknowledges their contributions to society and recognizes their right to age with dignity, regardless of their financial circumstances.

Thus, this bill seeks to provide free hemodialysis, peritoneal dialysis, and other DOH-approved dialysis procedures to all senior citizens. By providing free dialysis services to senior citizens, this bill aims to alleviate the economic burden on this vulnerable group.

In view of the foregoing, early passage of this bill is earnestly requested.



**MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID**  
*Senator*



1 the current and subsequent General Appropriations Act and their own respective  
2 funds. Thereafter, the amount needed for the continued implementation of this Act  
3 shall be included in the budget of the concerned departments in the annual General  
4 Appropriations.

5 **SECTION 4.** *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within thirty (30) days  
6 from the approval of this Act, the DOH, the PhilHealth, and the National Commission  
7 on Senior Citizens (NCSC), in coordination with other implementing agencies, shall  
8 formulate rules and guidelines as may be necessary for the proper implementation  
9 and enforcement of this Act.

10 **SECTION 5.** *Separability Clause.* – If, for any reason, any section or provision  
11 of this Act, or any portion thereof, or the application of such section, provision or  
12 portion, is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or the  
13 application of such section, provision, or portion thereof shall not be affected by such  
14 declaration.

15 **SECTION 6.** *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, letters of instructions,  
16 resolutions, orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with  
17 the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified accordingly or amended  
18 accordingly.

19 **SECTION 7.** *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days  
20 from its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers  
21 of general circulation.

22 *Approved,*