

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

SENATE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

9 APR 28 P2:46

SENATE
S.B. No. 3195

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS) has been described as an energy deficit disorder; the impact primarily is on the immune system, the brain, the muscles and endocrine system. This ailment brings sudden, unexplained, and extreme fatigue that severely impairs the performance of daily activities and continues for months. Because the cause of CFS is unknown, the prevention methods cannot be specified. There are, however, ways to manage the condition which include minimizing stress, maintaining an exercise routine, getting sufficient sleep and maintaining a healthy and balanced lifestyle.

One of the challenges faced by CFS affected persons is the apparent lack of recognition regarding the seriousness of the disease. Aside from its physical impact, the patient likewise suffers from a social stigma wherein the individual is perceived to be malingering, wanting attention, or feigning CFS-like symptoms. This affects the individual psychologically and may cause prolonged recovery from the disease.

Article II, Section 15 of the Constitution provides that, "The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them." Hence, the State must endeavor to promote awareness of CFS in order to eliminate the social stigma associated with the disease, thereby alleviating the suffering of CFS patients and guiding them to a speedy recovery and restoring them to a productive and fulfilling life.


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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S.B. No. **3195**

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1 AN ACT
2 PROMOTING AWARENESS OF CHRONIC FATIGUE SYNDROME AND
3 PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR
4

5 *Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in*
6 *Congress assembled:*
7

8 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Chronic Fatigue
9 Syndrome Awareness Act of 2009.”

10 SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS) is widely
11 misunderstood such that patients are viewed as malingering, wanting attention or feigning
12 CFS-like syndrome. The lack of recognition of the disease and support for CFS patients
13 affect them psychologically thereby prolonging their recovery from the disease. It is in
14 accord with the policy of the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people
15 and instill health consciousness among them that awareness of CFS be raised to dispel the
16 social stigma associated with the disease so that the patients may attain early recovery
17 and restoration to a productive and fulfilling life.

18 SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act, the following terms
19 are defined:

20 (1) PIA – Philippine Information Agency

21 (2) DOH – Department of Health

22 (3) “Chronic Fatigue Syndrome” – CFS is an energy deficit disorder, the impact
23 primarily is on the immune system, the brain, the muscles and endocrine
24 system.

1 SECTION 4. National Public Awareness Campaign

2 The Department of Health (DOH) in cooperation with the Philippine Information
3 Agency (PIA) shall carry out a national campaign to increase public awareness and
4 knowledge of Chronic Fatigue Syndrome.

5 Activities under the national campaign shall include:

- 6 1. The dissemination of information on recent findings about CFS, its
7 probable causes, prevention, diagnosis and available treatments.
- 8 2. Information on how to provide the necessary emotional support to a
9 family member, relative or friend suffering from CFS.

10 SECTION 5. *Implementing Agency.* — The Department of Health (DOH), in
11 cooperation with the Philippine Information Agency (PIA), is hereby authorized and
12 directed to adopt a system to implement and carry out the provisions of this Act. The
13 DOH shall, within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, promulgate rules and
14 regulations to carry out and enforce the provisions of this Act.

15 SECTION 6. *Appropriations.* — The amount necessary to carry out the provisions
16 of this Act, are hereby authorized to be appropriated from the National Treasury.

17 SECTION 7. *Separability Clause.* — If any provision or part hereof, is held invalid
18 or unconstitutional, the remainder of the Act or the provision not otherwise affected shall
19 remain valid and subsisting.

20 SECTION 8. *Repealing Clause.* - Any law, presidential decree or issuance,
21 executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to,
22 or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended
23 accordingly.

1 SECTION 11. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
2 after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

3 Approved,
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