

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

'04 JUN 30 P12-22

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SENATE
S.B. No. 57

Introduced by Senator **LUISA "LOI" P. EJERCITO ESTRADA**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Albeit breakthroughs in medical science and technology, tuberculosis continues to be one of the greatest infectious causes of death of adults worldwide. In fact, recent studies conducted by the World Health Organization reveals that one person every 15 seconds dies of tuberculosis and that an estimated 8,000,000 individuals develop active tuberculosis each year.

In the Philippines, tuberculosis continues to inflict thousands of Filipinos and has been spreading fast due to inadequate treatment, lack of coordination among public and private entities, and absence of a national plan for tuberculosis prevention, treatment and control as a result of the devolution of health services to local government units.

According to recent statistics of the Department of Health, there are about 129,000 documented tuberculosis cases in the country. In the NCR alone, 20,000 people are reportedly needing immediate medical attention and at least 2,000 are receiving mediocre treatment.

As the number is expected to significantly increase in the coming years, the department is currently looking for adequate resources to combat the physical, social, and economic devastation inflicted by this disease.

Tuberculosis should be preventable and treatable. Without government's support for education and prevention, however, this dreaded disease will continue to be a virtual death sentence in the country.

Hence, this bill seeks to establish a national plan for tuberculosis prevention, treatment and control by increasing investment in tuberculosis control programs and calling upon the government, non-governmental organizations and other concerned sectors to commit to putting an end to the nationwide TB epidemic.


LUISA "LOI" P. EJERCITO ESTRADA
Senator

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**AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL PLAN FOR TUBERCULOSIS PREVENTION,
TREATMENT AND CONTROL AND PROVIDING RELIABLE DRUGS SUPPLY
AND FREE LABORATORY MONITORING SERVICE TO TB PATIENTS**

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

SECTION 1. *Short title* – This Act shall be known as the “Comprehensive Tuberculosis Elimination Act.”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy* – It is hereby declared to be a policy of the State to support and expand efforts to eliminate tuberculosis in the country by increasing investment in tuberculosis control programs and calling upon the government, non-governmental organizations and other concerned sectors to commit to putting an end to the nationwide TB epidemic.

SECTION 3. *National plan for tuberculosis prevention, treatment and control* – The Secretary of Health (hereinafter known as “Secretary”) shall, in consultation with appropriate public and private entities, develop and implement a national plan to eliminate tuberculosis by considering the recommendations of said institutions and entities regarding the elimination of tuberculosis, addressing the development and application of new technologies, tying up with international organizations, concerned

with tuberculosis control for possible funding and assistance and reviewing the extent to which progress has been made toward eliminating tuberculosis.

SECTION 4. *Research, demonstration projects, education, and training-* With respect to the prevention, control, and elimination of tuberculosis, the Secretary shall, directly or through grants to public or nonprofit private entities, carry out the following:

- (1) Research, with priority given to research concerning--
 - (A) diagnosis and treatment of latent infection of tuberculosis;
 - (B) strains of tuberculosis resistant to drugs;
 - (C) cases of tuberculosis that affect certain populations; and
 - (D) clinical trials, including a tuberculosis trials consortium;
- (2) Demonstration projects, including for the development of regional capabilities for the prevention, control, and elimination of tuberculosis;
- (3) Public information and education programs;
- (4) Education, training and clinical skills improvement activities for health professionals;
- (5) Support of model centers to carry out activities under paragraphs (2) through (4);
- (6) Collaboration with international organizations and foreign countries in carrying out such activities;
- (7) Enhancement of basic and clinical research on tuberculosis; and
- (8) Research on the relationship between such disease and the HIV.

SECTION 5. *Establishment of regional centers* – The Secretary shall establish regional centers for tuberculosis control and treatment, which shall be tasked to:

- (1) provide free laboratory monitoring of tuberculosis cases in the country;

- (2) provide reliable drugs supply to patients for free by making sure that local health centers, through coordination with local government units concerned, have in their stock sufficient medicines for the communities they serve;
- (3) undertake public information and education programs; and
- (4) educate and train the public on basic ways and means to combat spread of tuberculosis;

SECTION 6. *Education programs* – The Secretary, in coordination with the Commission on Higher Education, shall encourage faculty of schools of medicine, nursing, or osteopathic medicine to intensify their program for information and education programs, including the development of curricula, to significantly increase the opportunities for students and for practicing providers to learn the principles and practices of preventing, managing, and controlling tuberculosis.

SECTION 7. *Inclusion in the curriculum* – The Secretary, in coordination with the Secretary of the Department of Education shall work for the inclusion of modules on the principles and practices of preventing, managing and controlling tuberculosis in the health curriculum of every public elementary and high school.

SECTION 8. *Media campaign* – The Secretary, in coordination with the Philippine Information Agency, shall encourage local media outlets, through a memorandum of agreement, to launch a full-blast media campaign anent tuberculosis control, treatment and management, which shall be subject of print, tv and radio broadcast and coverage.

SECTION 9. *Reports*- The Secretary shall biennially prepare and submit to the Committee on Health of the Senate and of the House of Representatives, a report on the activities carried out under this Act.

SECTION 10. *Rules and regulations* – The Secretary shall formulate rules and regulations in order to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 11. *Authorization of appropriations* – There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 12. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision or part hereof, is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 13. *Repealing Clause.* - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the provision of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SECTION 14. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

EPC/tb