

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



Senate  
Office of the Secretary

'14 FEB 10 P1 59

SENATE  
S. No. 2114

RECEIVED BY: *ji*

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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AN ACT  
TO RAISE AWARENESS OF, AND TO EDUCATE BREAST CANCER PATIENTS  
ANTICIPATING SURGERY, ESPECIALLY PATIENTS WHO ARE MEMBERS OF  
ETHNIC MINORITY GROUPS, REGARDING THE AVAILABILITY AND  
COVERAGE OF BREAST RECONSTRUCTION, PROSTHESES,  
AND OTHER OPTIONS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article 2, Section 15 provides:

SEC. 15. The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.

The Philippines reportedly has one of the highest incidences of breast cancer in Southeast Asia. Breast cancer is allegedly the third leading cause of death in the Philippines and the number one type of cancer among Filipino women, often afflicting them during their most productive years.

An estimated three out of 100 Filipino women will reportedly contract the disease before age 75. The Philippine Society of Medical Oncology in 2012 cited that one out of 100 women dies before age 75. This complements the Department of Health and Philippine Cancer Society, Inc. report, which states that breast cancer is the most common cancer in the country, comprising 16 percent of the 80,000 new cancer cases in 2010.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/329126/cbb/phl-has-highest-breast-cancer-rate-in-asia>

Fortunately, new treatments and improved reconstructive surgery are now available for women who have breast cancer. Because of the recent developments in science and technology, breast cancer patients have better choices than ever before.

Many women who have a mastectomy, either for prevention or treatment, have the option of having more surgery to rebuild the shape of the removed breast. Most women who undergo breast reconstruction report improved psychological, social, and sexual well-being, as well as satisfaction with the restored appearance of their breasts.<sup>2</sup>

Hence, this bill seeks to raise awareness of, and to educate breast cancer patients anticipating surgery, especially patients who are members of ethnic minority groups, regarding the availability and coverage of breast reconstruction, prostheses, and other options.<sup>3</sup>

*Miriam Defensor Santiago*  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.philstar.com/health-and-family/2013/10/01/1239890/preventive-mastectomy-and-breast-reconstruction-angelina-jolie>

<sup>3</sup> This bill was originally filed by Mr. Lance and Mrs. Christensen before the U.S. House of Representatives (113<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> Session). <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-113hr1984ih/pdf/BILLS-113hr1984ih.pdf>



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

1 AN ACT

2 TO RAISE AWARENESS OF, AND TO EDUCATE BREAST CANCER PATIENTS  
3 ANTICIPATING SURGERY, ESPECIALLY PATIENTS WHO ARE MEMBERS OF  
4 ETHNIC MINORITY GROUPS, REGARDING THE AVAILABILITY AND  
5 COVERAGE OF BREAST RECONSTRUCTION, PROSTHESES,  
6 AND OTHER OPTIONS

7 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as “Breast Cancer Patient  
8 Education Act.”

9 SECTION 2. *Breast Reconstruction Education.* –

10 (a) *In General.* – The Secretary of Health shall provide for the planning and  
11 implementation of an education campaign to inform breast cancer patients anticipating  
12 surgery regarding the availability and coverage of breast reconstruction, prostheses, and  
13 other options, with a focus on informing patients who are members of ethnic minority  
14 groups.

15 (b) *Information to be Disseminated.* –

16 (1) *Specific Information.* – Such campaign shall include dissemination of  
17 the following information:

18 (A) Breast reconstruction is possible at the time of breast cancer  
19 surgery, or at a later time.

20 (B) Prostheses or breast forms may be available.

1 (C) The patient has a right to choose a provider of reconstructive  
2 care, including the potential transfer of care to a surgeon that provides  
3 breast reconstructive care.

4 (D) The patient may opt to undergo breast reconstruction some time  
5 after the time of breast cancer surgery for personal or medical reasons,  
6 during treatment or after completion of all other breast cancer treatments.

7 (2) *Other Information.* – In addition to the information described in  
8 paragraph (1), such campaign may include dissemination of such other  
9 information (whether developed by the Secretary or by other entities) as the  
10 Secretary determines relevant.

11 (3) *Required Publication.* – The information required to be disseminated  
12 under paragraph (1) and any information disseminated in accordance with  
13 paragraph (2) shall be posted on the internet websites of relevant government  
14 agencies.

15 (4) *Restriction.* – Such campaign shall not specify, or be designed to serve  
16 as a tool to limit, the health care providers available to patients.

17 (c) *Consultation.* – In developing the information to be disseminated under this  
18 Act, the Secretary shall consult with appropriate medical societies and patient advocates  
19 related to breast cancer, breast reconstructive surgery, breast prostheses, and breast forms  
20 and with patient advocates representing ethnic minority groups.

21 (d) *Report.* – Not later than two years after date of effectivity of this Act and every  
22 two years after, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Health of the Senate and  
23 the House of Representatives a report describing the activities carried out under this Act  
24 during the preceding two fiscal years, which shall include an evaluation of the extent to  
25 which such activities have been effective in improving the health and well-being of  
26 ethnic minority groups.

1           SECTION 3. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof, is held invalid  
2 or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall  
3 remain valid and subsisting.

4           SECTION 4. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance,  
5 executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to  
6 or is inconsistent with the provision of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended  
7 accordingly.

8           SECTION 5. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after  
9 its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

/fldp6feb2014