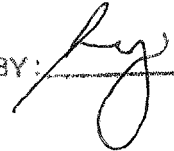


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SENATE
S. No. 1063

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Edgardo J. Angara

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution mandates the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people (Article II, Section 15) and to undertake appropriate health human resource development responsive to the country's needs and problems (Articles XIII, Section 12).

Moreover, the Philippines joined the other countries at the 1978 Alma Ata Conference in USSR in adopting the Primary Health Care Approach to providing health service.

At present, however, lack of proper dental health practices of the general population continues to be a national concern.

Almost entire communities in the country suffer from two of the most prevalent of dental diseases: Too decay and gum diseases. Tooth decay affects 96% of our urban children and 87% of those in the rural areas. The magnitude of the dental problem is reflected in its being the highest in the morbidity picture of the country. In economic terms, every tooth affected means the loss of productivity of two days, lost opportunities, recurring pain and severe discomfort as well as increased cost of dental treatments.

The bill proposes to create a dental unit in each of the 2,299 rural health units as part of the human resource development to meet the needs of the Primary Health Care strategy in the delivery of health services.

At present, there are 881 rural health dentists in plantilla of the Department of Health distributed in the twelve regions. By providing for one dentist position in each of the 2,299 rural health units under the Department of Health, the priority targets of dental health services – pre-school children, school children, pregnant and non-pregnant mothers and adults – will be adequately served. It will cost more in their services, but the benefits to be derived from their services will be tremendous. More children, mothers and adults can be properly attended to. With a dentist at every rural health unit, the ratio of dentist to the population will approach the standard ratio of 1:20,000 population, similar to that of physician.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of the bill is strongly recommended.


EDGARDO J. ANGARA

'04 JUN 30 P10:15

SENATE

S. No. 1063

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AN ACT

CREATING A DENTAL UNIT IN EVERY RURAL HEALTH UNIT UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AS PART OF THE PRIMARY HEALTH CARE APPROACH IN THE DELIVERY OF HEALTH SERVICES AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy. – It is the policy of the State:

- a) To pursue the Primary Health Care Approach in the delivery of health services and to undertake the appropriate health human resource development for this policy; and
- b) To promote preventive dental healthcare in the rural areas as part of the Primary Health Care strategy.

SEC. 2. Definition of Terms. –

- (a) Rural Health Unit – also known as Main Health Center. It is composed of a doctor, a nurse and a midwife. Its function is to carry out the public health functions of the Department of Health which includes both preventive and curative health care.
- (b) Dental Unit – composed of a public health dentist and a trained Barangay Health Worker as a dental aide.

SEC. 3. Creation of Dental Unit. – As part of the Primary Health Care Approach, there is hereby created a dental unit in every rural health unit under the supervision of the Department of Health.

SEC. 4. Rules and Regulations - The Department of Health shall issue rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 5. Funding - The amount necessary for the purpose of this Act shall be funded out of the appropriations of the Department of Health under Republic Act Numbered sixty-six hundred and forty two. Thereafter, such amount as may be necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriation Act.

SEC. 6. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official Gazette and in any newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,