SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES Third Regular Session

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SENATE S. No. <u>3060</u>

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF AN UNDIAGNOSED DISEASES REGISTRY

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article 13, Section 11 provides:

The State shall adopt and integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost. There shall be a priority for the needs of the underprivileged, sick, elderly, disabled, women and children. The State shall endeavor to provide free medical care to paupers.

As enshrined in our Constitution, a meaningful health development program requires an integrated and comprehensive approach. This means that all our efforts must be coordinated towards addressing all health areas that require solutions and are prime for development. In order to do this efficiently, we must make all relevant information available to all. By doing so, not only do we help prevent unnecessary errors in the diagnosis and treatment of many yet unidentified diseases, we will be able to build on past and present efforts towards better health services and disease prevention. The development of the Internet provides us with a cheap and efficient means through which we can distribute all necessary information that can help our health professionals and patients alike in addressing undiagnosed diseases.

This bill seeks to establish an Undiagnosed Diseases Registry through the Department of Health which shall be made available to the public subject to reasonable

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information restriction as provided for in this bill and as further determined by the Secretary of Health.¹

MIRIAM DEFUNSOR SANTIAGO

¹ This bill was originally filed during the Fourteenth Congress, Third Regular Session.

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

1 SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the "Undiagnosed Diseases

- 2 Registry Act."
- 3 SECTION 2. *Definition of Terms*. For purposes of this Act, the term:
- A. "Registry" means the Undiagnosed Diseases Registry established under this
 Act; and
- 6 B. "Secretary" means the Secretary of Health.

SECTION 3. Establishment of the Undiagnosed Diseases Registry. – The
Secretary shall establish and maintain an undiagnosed diseases registry.

9 SECTION 4. *Content of the Registry.* – The Secretary shall include in the registry 10 such information respecting undiagnosed diseases as the Secretary deems appropriate for 11 the purpose of facilitating the early recognition, prevention, treatment, cure, and control 12 of such diseases.

SECTION 5. Availability of Registry Information. - For the purpose described in
 Section 4, the Secretary may make the information in the registry publicly available,
 except the Secretary shall not publicly disclose -

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- 1 A. individually identifiable information; or
- B. trade secrets or commercial or financial information obtained from a person
 and privileged or confidential.

4 SECTION 6. Online Access to Available Information. – The information in the 5 registry shall be made available over the Internet, subject to the limitations provided 6 under Section 5.

SECTION 7. Continuous Update of Information. - The Secretary shall provide for
a system of continuous updating of the information in the registry based on scientific
advances in the fields of diagnosis, prevention and treatment relating to such information.

10 SECTION 8. Separability Clause. – If any provision of this Act is held invalid or 11 unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other 12 provisions hereof.

SECTION 9. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, and issuances, or
 portions thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby
 repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

16 SECTION 10. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days 17 after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general 18 circulation.

Approved,

/lml24Nov2015

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