

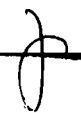
**SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC
OF THE PHILIPPINES**

First Regular Session



'16 JUL 26 A9:00

SENATE
S. B. 874

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Poe

**AN ACT
TO ASSIST INDIGENT CANCER PATIENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES,
ESTABLISHING FOR THE PURPOSE A CANCER ASSISTANCE FUND AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES**

Explanatory Note

Claiming thousands of lives each year, and amounting to several billions of pesos in healthcare and treatment cost, cancer has become a serious public health issue and both a clinical as well as economic burden¹.

In the Philippines, cancer is the third leading cause of death. It is outranked only by communicable and cardiovascular diseases, claiming one death for every two new cases within a year, while cancer, which afflicts 189 per 100,000, kills four Filipinos every hour or 103 every day.

The incidence and mortality rate of cancer in the Philippines has been increasing in the past three decades. This trend is expected to continue if organized and sustained specialized care and preventive measures against cancer are not initiated.

The chemotherapy for cancer patients may cost about Php100, 000.00 per session. The cost of treatment by radiation, or even examination by Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), is burdensome even to middle-income patients, and often beyond the reach of the poor.

¹ From a study of the Institute of Human Genetics, National Institutes of Health, University of the Philippines Manila, ihg.upm.edu.ph

This is why cancer has gained a reputation as the disease for the rich. The painful truth is that it can afflict anybody, regardless of economic status.

This legislation is submitted with the recognition that in our fundamental law, the right to health of the people is accorded premium attention. Moreover, considering that one of the goals of the national economy is a more equitable distribution of opportunities and raising the quality of life for all, especially the underprivileged, it is high time that the less fortunate be given the opportunity to fight cancer despite their lack of resources.

For this reason, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


GRACE POE

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Senate
Office of the Secretary

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

1 **SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy.** It is a declared policy of the State to protect and
2 promote the right to health of the people. For this purpose, the State shall implement a
3 system of providing premium care and assistance to indigent cancer patients and their
4 families.

5 **SECTION 2. Assistance to Indigent Cancer Patients.** Every year, the State shall
6 automatically appropriate the amount of One Billion Pesos (Php1, 000,000,000.00) to support
7 the cancer medicine and treatment assistance program to be administered by the Philippine
8 Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth). The Program shall prioritize indigent and
9 underprivileged cancer patient beneficiaries to be identified by the PhilHealth in coordination
10 with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and the Department of
11 Interior and Local Government (DILG).

12 **SECTION 3. Rules and Regulations.** The PhilHealth in consultation with the DSWD
13 and DILG and the representatives from hospital association, medical practitioners and civil
14 society representing peasant and/or the marginalized sector shall formulate relevant rules and
15 regulations within six (6) months from the approval of this Act.

1 **SECTION 4. *Effectivity.*** This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following
2 its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two newspapers of general circulation.

3 Approved,