

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

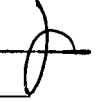


Senate
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE

Senate Bill No. 1201

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Cynthia A. Villar

**AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BREAST CARE CENTERS
IN EVERY REGION NATIONWIDE, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

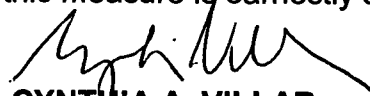
One in every 13 Filipina is expected to develop a breast cancer in her lifetime. To date, breast cancer is the most prevalent form of cancer in the country, wherein 16 percent of the 50,000 diagnosed cancer cases are contracted with it. As such, Philippines has the highest incidence rate of breast cancer in Asia¹.

Sadly, 70 percent of those who die from breast cancer do not receive any kind of treatment.² Also, the country had the lowest survival rate of people with breast cancer among the 15 Asia countries³.

With these staggering statistics, there is a need to address this alarming situation. Hence, this bill seeks to establish breast care centers where better education, care and preventive measures are given to women who avail of its services. By approving this act, the access to specialized care is made easier, more accessible, and more affordable to the more marginalized sectors of our society, and would be more in tune with the constitutional mandate that the State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other services available to all the people at affordable cost.

Medical practitioners emphasize that breast cancer is preventable and curable disease. Thus, an early detection is still considered the best weapon in fighting the disease.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this measure is earnestly sought.


CYNTHIA A. VILLAR

¹ <http://psmo.org.ph/the-abcs-of-breast-cancer/>


² <http://www.mb.com.ph/fighting-breast-cancer/>

³ <http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/291078/breast-cancer-is-the-most-prevalent-in-ph>

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

3 **SECTION 1. *Establishment of Breast Care Centers.*** - A breast care center,
4 known in this Act as "Center", shall be established in every region of the country to
5 spearhead the fight against breast cancer. It shall be a new department in existing
6 regional hospitals of the National Government. Should there be no regional hospital
7 in the region, the Center shall be attached to any district hospital in the region, which
8 is most accessible to the highest number of constituents.

9 **SEC. 2. *Equipment and Personnel.*** - The Centers shall be provided with such
10 equipment, tools, implements, devices, apparatus and personnel as may be
11 necessary for them to carry out multiple programs such as Breast Protection, Breast
12 Surveillance, Breast Imaging, Breast Diagnostic and Surgery, Breast Cancer
13 Chemotherapy and Breast Cancer Awareness and Protection.

14 **SEC. 3. *Function.*** - The Centers shall, in coordination with local government
15 units, local health offices, the Philippine Information Agency and other government
16 agencies, shall spearhead a sustained and extensive information and awareness
17 campaign within their respective region to raise the level of awareness of the
18 region's constituents especially the women sector on the ills, causes and symptoms
19 of the disease for its early detection and prevention.

20 The centers shall coordinate with regional and local education officials to
21 ensure that female high school students in both public and private schools are taught
22 the pertinent information about the disease and are trained to habitually self-examine
23 themselves as a part of the regular secondary curriculum.

24 **SEC. 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - The Secretary of the
25 Department of Health shall issue guidelines, orders or rules and regulations as may
26 be necessary for the establishment of a Center in every regional hospital of the
27 National Government or in a district hospital to be designated by the Secretary of

1 Health for being the most accessible to the highest number of constituents in a
2 region where there is no existing regional hospital; for the acquisition of the
3 necessary equipment, tools, implements, devices and apparatus for the hiring of
4 personnel, for the fixing of reasonable fees for the services of the Centers and to
5 carry out the provisions and purposes of this Act.

6 SEC. 5. *Operationalization and Appropriations.* - To fully implement the
7 provisions of the Act, the Secretary of Health shall immediately include in the
8 Department's program the operationalization of the Centers, the funding for which
9 shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

10 SEC. 6. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days upon its
11 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

12 Approved,