Senate
Office of the Secretary

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

SENATE

Senate Bill No. 1389

INTRODUCED BY **SENATOR JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO**

AN ACT
PROVIDING A STANDARD OF CARE FOR THE TREATMENT OF PERSONS WITH BLEEDING DISORDERS, ESTABLISHING TREATMENT CENTERS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Constitution Section 15 of Article II mandates that:

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

Furthermore, Section 11 of Article XIII, thereof, specifically provides:

> *The State shall adopt an 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 priority for the needs of the underprivileged sick, elderly, disabled, women, and children. The State shall endeavor to provide free medical care to paupers.*

The prevalence of bleeding disorders in the country is disturbing. A bleeding disorder is a condition that affects the way your blood normally clots.[1] The most common types of bleeding disorders includes Hemophilia A and B, Factor II, V, VII, X, or XII deficiencies and von Willebrand's disease.

According to the report of the World Hemophilia Federation, roughly around 400,000 people in the world have hemophilia A, which accounts for 85% of people with hemophilia, but only 25% is presently receiving adequate treatment.[2] In the Philippines, there is approximately 10,000 Filipinos affected with hemophilia and around one million others with von Willebrand Disease and other clotting factor deficiency disorders.[3]

The country still has a lot to do in order to address the harm of bleeding disorder. There is an absence or lack of awareness by both medical practitioners and patients regarding the disease, there is a high cost of treatment and the inadequate treatment provided to the patients.

It is in this light that the bill proposes the establishment of hemophilia treatment facilities in key cities and regions nationwide in designated hospitals with Cancer and Hematology Departments. The bill seeks to provide free of charge blood clotting products, room exclusively for hemophilia patients and clinical coagulation laboratory.

The immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO

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[1] *http://www.healthline.com/health/bleeding-disorders#Overview1*

[2] *http://www.philstar.com/health-and-family/517517/life-love-and-bleeding-hearts-hemophilia-camp*

[3] *http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/686539/many-filipinos-with-hemophilia-cant-get-treatment*

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

SECTION 1. Short Title.- This Act shall be known as the **"Bleeding Disorder Standards of Care Act of 2017"**.

SECTION. 2. Declaration of Policy.- It is hereby declared the policy of the State:

(a) To ensure the adequate treatment of hemophilia at the lowest possible cost and endeavor to make them available for free to indigent patients;

(b) To ensure the establishment of treatment centers in public hospitals; and.

(c) To establish a standard of care so that patients with severe bleeding disorders can receive necessary and appropriate medical care.

SECTION. 3. Definition- The following words and phrases when used in this Act shall have the meanings given to them in this Section unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

(1) **"Bleeding Disorder"** - A medical condition characterized by a severe deficiency or absence of one or more essential blood clotting proteins in the human blood, often called factors, including all forms of hemophilia, von Willebrand disease and other bleeding disorders which result in uncontrolled bleeding or abnormal blood clotting.

(2) **"Blood Clotting product"** - An intravenously administered medicine manufactured from human plasma, recombinant biotechnology techniques and other processes, approved for distribution by the BFAD and which is used for the treatment and prevention of symptoms associated with bleeding disorders. The term includes, but is not limited to:

(A) Factor VIIa, Factor VIII and Factor IX products;
(B) Von Willebrand Factor products;
(C) Prothrombin complex concentrates;
(D) Activated prothrombin complex concentrates
(E) Other products approved by the BFAD for the treatment of bleeding disorders and associated inhibitors.

(3) **" Indigent Patient"-** Any patient deemed unable to pay for services and or medical treatment, laboratory testing of blood and/or coagulation studies, or blood coagulating product and/or ancillary infusion equipment.

(4) **" DOH"-** refers to the Department of Health.

(5) **"BFAD"-** refers to the Bureau of Food and Drugs.

(6) **" Hemophillia"-** A human bleeding disorder caused by a hereditary deficiency of the Factor VIII, Factor XI or Factor XI blood clotting protein in human blood.

(7) **" von Willebrand disease"** - A human bleeding disorder caused by a hereditary deficiency or abnormality of the von Willebrand Factor in human blood.

SECTION. 4. State Treatment Facilities.- The state shall establish hemophilia treatment facilities in key cities and regions nationwide in designated hospitals with Cancer and Hematology Departments.

Each Hemophilia Treatment Facilities shall provide to all hemophilia patients:

(1) Care by qualified hematologists and medical doctors and shall also provide free of charge the necessary blood clotting products and ancillary infusion equipment necessary for the infusion of such blood clotting products;

(2) A room exclusively for hemophilia patients; and

(3) A clinical coagulation laboratory for the screening, diagnosis, provisional diagnosis and treatment of bleeding disorders or suspected bleeding disorders and such services shall be provided free of charge to all indigent patients.

SECTION. 5. ***Funding.* -** The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be sourced from the current budget of the Department of Health. Thereafter, the funds necessary for the continuous implementation of this Act in the ensuing years shall be included in the General Appropriations Act.

The treatment facilities are allowed to use five percent (5%) of the amount given to it for the maintenance of the rooms that will be used exclusively for hemophilia patients. However, ninety percent (90%) of the amount shall be used exclusively for necessary blood clotting products and ancillary infusion equipment necessary for the infusion of such blood clotting products to hemophilia patients. The remaining five percent (5%) shall be used for blood screening of hemophilia patients.

Each treatment facility shall submit an annual report to the DOH on how the amount given to it is used.

SECTION. 6. ***Regulations*-** Within sixty (60) days from the approval of this Act, the Department of Health (DOH) shall, in consultation with hemophilia groups, promulgate the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SECTION. 7. ***Separability Clause-*** If for any reason, any provision of this Act is declared un constitutional or invalid, the other parts or provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION. 8. ***Effectivity Clause.-*** This Act shall take effect on the fifteenth day following its publication in at least two (2) daily papers of national circulation.

Approved,