

'18 MAY -3 P2 :34

**SENATE  
Senate Bill No. 1794**

RECEIVED \_\_\_\_\_  


---

**Introduced by Senator LOREN LEGARDA**

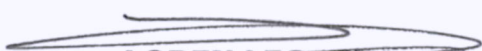
---

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Dengvaxia was originally intended to help eradicate, if not reduce, the dengue incidents in the country. It was unfortunate that it was only after around 800,000 children were already administered with this dengue vaccine that the public was informed of its accompanying risks, particularly to those who have not yet been infected with dengue, at the time of the first vaccine.<sup>1</sup> Tragic deaths of children supposedly linked to Dengvaxia have been reported in the news, which has compelled the Department of Health to suspend the administration of Dengvaxia. On demand of the Government, Zuellig Pharma, the local distributor of the Dengvaxia manufacturer Sanofi Pasteur, refunded the amount of around Php 1.16 Billion covering the unused vials of Dengvaxia vaccines.

This bill seeks to appropriate the said amount to fund the much-needed support to the vaccinees by providing them with medical assistance for hospitalization, medical kits, out-patient care services, including laboratory tests, among others. This medical assistance program will hopefully prevent further deaths and illnesses of those administered with the vaccine, regardless of cause.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate enactment of this Supplemental Budget is earnestly sought

  
**LOREN LEGARDA  
Senator**

---

<sup>1</sup> Dengue vaccine: WHO position paper – July 2016, available at <http://www.who.int/wer/2016/wer9130.pdf?ua=1> (last accessed on March 21, 2018).