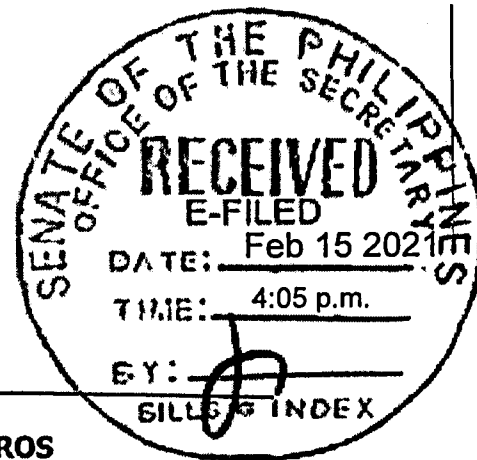


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
*Second Regular Session*

SENATE

S.B. No. 2053



**INTRODUCED BY SENATOR RISA HONTIVEROS**

**AN ACT  
PROVIDING FREE HEMODIALYSIS, PERITONEAL DIALYSIS, AND OTHER  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH APPROVED DIALYSIS PROCEDURES TO ALL SENIOR  
CITIZENS**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) is an important contributor to global mortality and morbidity<sup>1</sup>. In 2017, CKD resulted into 1.2 million deaths worldwide<sup>2</sup>. With the natural aging of the kidneys, CKD becomes more common with increasing age. Conditions prevalent in senior citizens, such as heart diseases, high blood pressure, and diabetes, also damage the kidneys<sup>3</sup>.

CKD is largely preventable and treatable through dialysis procedures such as hemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis<sup>4</sup>. However, the cost of medical treatment for kidney diseases in the country remains highly expensive. The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (Philhealth) only subsidizes 90 out of the 144 dialysis sessions needed in a year of treatment<sup>5</sup>. The COVID-19 pandemic magnified the physical and financial vulnerabilities of our senior citizens. Not only are they at a high risk of contracting the virus due to their pre-existing medical conditions, but also many senior citizens only rely on their social pension- a measly amount of P 500 they receive monthly. Finding other means of income or employment would be difficult after the age of 60<sup>6</sup>. With a case rate of P 2,500 per session of dialysis, we cannot expect that our senior citizens needing this life saving treatment will be capable to pay the remaining 54 sessions amounting to P 135,000.

<sup>1</sup> Bikbov, Boris et al. Global, regional, and national burden of chronic kidney disease, 1990-2017: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2017. *The Lancet*, Volume 35, Issue 10225, 709-733.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.worldkidneyday.org/facts/chronic-kidney-disease/>


<sup>4</sup> 2018 United States Renal Data System Data Report Volume 2.

<sup>5</sup> Philhealth Circular 22-2015

<sup>6</sup> Horn, David, Charles Knox-Vydmanov, and Aura Sevilla. "The Feasibility of a Universal Social Pension in the Philippines". Quezon City: Coalition of Services for the Elderly, and HelpAge International, 2017

Consistent with Article XIII, Section 11 of the 1987 Constitution which seeks to endeavor to make essential goods and services available and affordable, especially for among others, the elderly, this bill seeks to provide free hemodialysis, peritoneal dialysis, and other Department of Health (DOH) approved dialysis procedures to senior citizens. To honor the efforts and contribution to society of our lolas and lolos, we must aide and safeguard them in their vulnerable state.

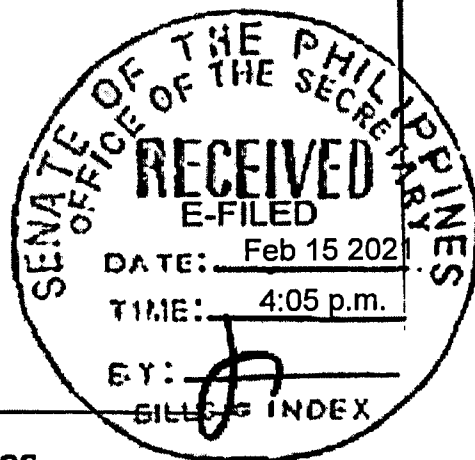
In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
**RISA HONTIVEROS**  
*Senator*

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
*Second Regular Session*

SENATE

S.B. No. 2053



INTRODUCED BY SENATOR RISA HONTIVEROS

**AN ACT**  
**PROVIDING FREE HEMODIALYSIS, PERITONEAL DIALYSIS, AND OTHER**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH APPROVED DIALYSIS PROCEDURES TO ALL SENIOR**  
**CITIZENS**

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

1       Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "Free Dialysis for Senior  
2 Citizens Act of 2021."

3       Sec. 2. *Free Dialysis for All Senior Citizens.* – The cost of all the needed  
4 hemodialysis, peritoneal dialysis, and other Department of Health ("DOH") approved  
5 dialysis procedure shall be fully reimbursed by the Philippines Health Insurance  
6 Corporation (PHIC), provided such treatment is availed of at PHIC accredited hospitals or  
7 free-standing dialysis centers. Provided further, that only those procedures that use the  
8 dialysis solutions included in the latest edition of the Philippine National Drug Formulary  
9 ("PNDF") shall be reimbursed by the Philhealth. Provided finally, that only laboratory  
10 procedures and supplies considered necessary shall be covered by the Philhealth.  
11 Philhealth shall, as soon as possible, reimburse all official receipts for drugs, supplies, and  
12 laboratory procedures dated thirty (30) days prior to the date of the claimed session.

13       Sec. 3. *Appropriations.* – The amount needed for the implementation of this Act  
14 shall be charged against the appropriations of the DOH and the PHIC in the current and  
15 subsequent General Appropriations Act and their own respective funds. Thereafter, the  
16 amount needed for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the  
17 budget of the concerned departments in the annual General Appropriations.

18       Sec. 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within thirty (30) days from the  
19 approval of this Act, the DOH, the PHIC, and the National Commission on Senior Citizens  
20 (NCSC), in coordination with other implementing agencies, shall formulate rules and  
21 guidelines as may be necessary for the proper implementation and enforcement of this  
22 Act.

1       Sec. 5. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act or the application thereof  
2 to any person or circumstance is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions  
3 or sections of this Act and the application of such provision or section to other persons or  
4 circumstances, not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

5       Sec. 6. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees or issuances, executive  
6 orders, letters of instruction, administrative orders, rules or regulations contrary to or  
7 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified or amended  
8 accordingly.

9       Sec. 7. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication  
10 in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*