



S. B. No. 69

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INTRODUCED BY SENATOR ALAN PETER "COMPAÑERO" S. CAYETANO

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AN ACT  
PROVIDING FOR THE CREATION OF CENTERS FOR THE ELDERLY IN EVERY  
CITY AND MUNICIPALITY, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR  
OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

*"Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord  
your God is giving you."*

Exodus 20:12

Our culture taught us to love and respect the elderly. The responsibility to take care of the aging citizens of our society is, therefore, ingrained into the very being of every Filipino. For example, *pagmamano*, saying *po* and *opo* are manifestations of how our culture treats and respects the elderly. Filipinos are proud of our long ingrained value of caring for one another, especially for our *lolos* and *lolas*. This is further made evident by imposing upon the State the responsibility to prioritize the needs of the elderly, underprivileged, sick, disabled, women, and children in the provision of social services.

According to the World Health Organization, the pace of population ageing is much faster than in the past. It is estimated that between 2015 to 2050, the proportion of the world's population over sixty (60) years will nearly double from twelve percent (12%) to twenty-two percent (22%).<sup>1</sup> The problems of population ageing go hand in hand with economic growth since it affects labor force participation in the market.<sup>2</sup>

In 2015, the elderly population of the Philippines only comprised 7.5% or 7,548,769 of the total estimated population.<sup>3</sup> This increased in 2020, by more than 4.7 million (12,336,355 Filipinos). 11.31% of the then estimated population consisted

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<sup>1</sup> World Health Organization (4 October 2021). <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/ageing-and-health>

<sup>2</sup> International Labor Organization (1 December 2009). [https://www.ilo.org/global/WCM\\_041965/lang--en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/global/WCM_041965/lang--en/index.htm)

<sup>3</sup> Philippine Statistics Authority (2015). [https://psa.gov.ph/system/files/2015%20Fact%20Sheets%20on%20Senior%20Citizen\\_pop.pdf?width=950%26height=700%26iframe=true](https://psa.gov.ph/system/files/2015%20Fact%20Sheets%20on%20Senior%20Citizen_pop.pdf?width=950%26height=700%26iframe=true)

of Filipinos aged 60 or over.<sup>4</sup> An increase in the ageing population means an increase in the demand for care of this sector<sup>5</sup> – including health care services. Therefore, there is a pressing need to take care of our elderly population.

On 01 April 2019, Taguig has successfully launched a pilot Center for the Elderly that caters to the health and wellbeing of our senior citizens who have low-risk, less serious or uncomplicated cases. The hub is a disabled-friendly five-story building which provides accessible and hassle free delivery of health services, recreation, and other leisure facilities available to senior citizens. It features a medical clinic, a therapy pool, conference rooms, offices, a pantry, restrooms, a fully-equipped gym, a yoga room, a ballroom, two saunas, multipurpose function areas, a movie theatre, a rooftop garden, activity area with board games and reading materials, a spa and wellness area with massage chairs, outdoor exercise equipment, and an elevator.

On 21 November 2019, Taguigeño senior citizens were fortunate to be joined by then President Rodrigo Roa Duterte as he visited the first wellness hub for seniors in the country, right in the City of Taguig.

“I wish that your pursuit to uplift the lives of our senior citizens will be emulated by other city and municipal governments in the country,” said President Duterte.<sup>6</sup>

The words of appreciation and encouragement by President Duterte, our *Tatay Digong*, are one of the many reasons why I am spearheading this initiative. For every *lolo* and *lola*, I want to show that they are appreciated, respected, and loved, *kahit maputi na ang buhok nila*.

It is the proposal of this Bill to establish and create, in every city or municipality, a Center for the Elderly that is especially dedicated to the overall wellbeing of our beloved *lolos* and *lolas*. The aim therefore, is to provide accessible eldercare services in every locality in order to address the overall wellbeing of an ageing population. It is also believed that with the introduction of the Taguig City Center for Elderly model, the national government’s agenda to promote inclusivity, fairness, and good governance will further be advanced.

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



ALAN PETER “COMPAÑERO” S. CAYETANO

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<sup>4</sup> Inquirer (5 October 2021). <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1497408/ph-senior-citizens-in-a-time-of-pandemic>

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>6</sup> [https://pcoo.gov.ph/news\\_releases/president-duterte-hopes-other-igus-will-emulate-taguig-citys-center-for-the-elderly/](https://pcoo.gov.ph/news_releases/president-duterte-hopes-other-igus-will-emulate-taguig-citys-center-for-the-elderly/)



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**AN ACT**  
**PROVIDING FOR THE CREATION OF CENTERS FOR THE ELDERLY IN EVERY CITY AND MUNICIPALITY, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

*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 “*Center for the Elderly*  
2 *in All Cities and Municipalities Act.*”  
3

4           **SECTION 2. Statement of Policy.** – The State has the responsibility to take care  
5 of its elderly. In the same vein, it is the obligation of the State to prioritize the elderly  
6 in the adoption of an integrated and comprehensive approach to health and social  
7 development which endeavors to make essential goods, health and other social  
8 services available to all the people at affordable cost.  
9

10           **SECTION 3. Definition of Terms.** –

- 11           A. “Eldercare” shall mean the provision of primary health services that especially  
12 caters to the needs of senior citizens.  
13           B. “Elderly” or “senior citizen” shall mean a resident citizen at least sixty (60)  
14 years of age, as defined under Republic Act (R.A.) No. 9994 or the Expanded  
15 Senior Citizens Act of 2010.  
16           C. “Less severe illness” shall mean a health problem, issue, or condition that does  
17 not carry a high risk of mortality and does not negatively impact the life and  
18 daily function of an individual.  
19           D. “Office for Senior Citizen Affairs” or “OSCA” shall mean the office established  
20 by R.A. No. 7432 or the Senior Citizens Act, as amended by R.A. No. 9994.  
21           E. “Primary health services” or “primary health care” shall mean the initial  
22 contact of an individual with an accessible and coordinated health system to  
23 manage health problems or issues that are less severe or uncomplicated,  
24 including, but not limited to the following:  
25               a) Diagnosis and treatment of health problems;  
26               b) Prevention of health problems;  
27               c) Early intervention; and  
28               d) Managing ongoing and long-term conditions.  
29

1           **SECTION 4. Special Committee on Centers for the Elderly.** - There is hereby  
2 created a Special Committee on Centers for the Elderly to be composed of the  
3 following:

- 4
- 5           1. Secretary of the Department of Health as Chairperson;
- 6           2. Secretary of the Department of Social Welfare and Development as Vice  
7           Chairperson;
- 8           3. Secretary of the Department of Public Works and Highways as Member;
- 9           4. Secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government as  
10           Member;
- 11           5. National Commission of Senior Citizens Chairperson as Member; and,
- 12           6. One representative of the private sector who is a senior citizen to be  
13           appointed by the President as Member.
- 14

15           The Committee shall ensure that relevant national government agencies shall  
16 establish at least one (1) Center for the Elderly in every city and municipality  
17 especially dedicated to provide eldercare, recreational activities, social services, and  
18 assistance to senior citizens. The establishment shall be a wellness hub with health  
19 services, with the following minimum standards:

- 20
- 21           a. A sufficient number of qualified staff shall be on duty at all times to render  
22           appropriate services in the Center;
- 23           b. Facilities, rooms, and spaces which are accessible, especially to the elderly  
24           and Persons with Disability, and with appropriate signage;
- 25           c. Basic health and recreational facilities which are appropriate for the  
26           elderly, including adequate space for indoor activities, and, as far as  
27           practicable, open spaces and garden area for outdoor activities;
- 28           d. Appropriate health facilities for elderly needing medical attention and for  
29           use for medical consultation;
- 30           e. The Center shall have basic utility, such as water and electricity; and,
- 31           f. Data and information management system that shall contain, store, and  
32           secure the health and other relevant data of the elderly, in accordance with  
33           the provisions of the Data Privacy Act.
- 34

35           The Department of Social Welfare and Development, consistent with the  
36 Republic Act (R.A.) No. 9994 or the Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010, and the  
37 Department of Health, consistent with the national health program for senior citizens,  
38 shall issue guidelines for the proper implementation of this Act, and shall provide  
39 assistance to LGUs in setting up the Centers for the Elderly.

40

41           Medical services provided within the Centers for the Elderly and their  
42 providers shall be accredited by the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation  
43 (PhilHealth).

44

45           **SECTION 5. Role of the OSCA.** - The OSCA established in every city or  
46 municipality shall act as liaison and referral office. It will also be the main body to  
47 handle referrals in case there is a necessity for medical attention to a senior citizen.

48

49           It shall likewise make available a list of health and social services offered in  
50 respective Centers for the Elderly.

1           **SECTION 6. Staffing.** – All Centers for the Elderly established under this Act  
2 shall have three staff groups on a daily, rotational basis, comprising at least one  
3 doctor, one nurse, and two trained barangay health workers.  
4

5           The LGU concerned shall hire all Center for the Elderly staff as job order, casual,  
6 contractual, or regular employees. Barangay health workers currently serving the city  
7 or municipality shall be given preference in the hiring under this Act.  
8

9           **SECTION 7. Services.** – All Centers for the Elderly established under this Act  
10 shall be equipped with at least the most basic facilities that can cater to less severe,  
11 uncomplicated, and/or out-patient medical services, reliable financial assistance,  
12 social services, and worthwhile recreational activities.  
13

14           **SECTION 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).** – Within 60 days  
15 upon the approval of this Act, the Department of Health, in coordination with the  
16 Department of Social Welfare and Development, Department of Public Works and  
17 Highways (DPWH), and LGUs, shall prepare and issue such rules and regulations  
18 necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act.  
19

20           Thereafter, the DPWH shall ensure the commencement of the creation of  
21 Centers for the Elderly within the fiscal year after appropriating budget therefore.  
22

23           **SECTION 9. Appropriations.** – The amount necessary to carry out the  
24 provisions of this Act is hereby authorized to be appropriated from the General  
25 Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment, and every year thereafter.  
26

27           **SECTION 10. Separability Clause.** – If any part or provision of this Act is  
28 declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other parts hereof not affected thereby shall  
29 remain valid.  
30

31           **SECTION 11. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, acts, presidential decrees,  
32 executive orders, administrative orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with or  
33 contrary to the provisions of this Act are deemed amended, modified or repealed  
34 accordingly.  
35

36           **SECTION 12. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
37 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*