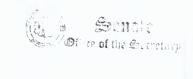
NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

First Regular Session



22 JUL 12 A9:00

s. B. No. 304

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INTRODUCED BY SENATOR ALAN PETER "COMPAÑERO" S. CAYETANO

AN ACT

PROVIDING FOR THE CREATION OF SUPER HEALTH CENTERS IN EVERY CITY AND MUNICIPALITY, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Filipinos take pride in their resiliency and adaptiveness regardless of the challenges they face here in the country and in different parts of the globe. However, despite our resilience, we should aspire for world class health and educational services and institutions. This cannot be overemphasized. In the past few years, we have focused on building hospitals / tertiary care facilities which are good and beneficial to our people, but it is time to go back to the basics - where prevention is better than cure. Hence, the country should invest more in primary healthcare.

At the onset of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, 40% of the country's nurses have resigned.¹ Latest data from the Department of Health shows that the overall bed occupancy rate of hospitals reached 131%. 3 out of 4 hospitals have occupancy rates exceeding its authorized bed capacity.² Some hospitals are understaffed and clogged with the increasing number of patients day by day. The Philippines has only over a thousand hospitals and a few would operate 24 hours a day.

This bill proposes the creation of Super Health Centers in every city and municipality in the country, envisioned to actualize constitutional policies on health. To wit, Section 15 of Article II of the 1987 Constitution provides that "[t]he State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them."

The passage of this bill will help strengthen our primary health care system and increase its accessibility to the people. These centers will operate 24/7 and will provide various medical services to the people (including specialized services), concentrating mainly on those who have low-risk, less serious or uncomplicated cases. The Super Health Centers can help ease the burden for patients who are compelled to go to farther hospitals for basic treatments or check ups.

¹ https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9126038/

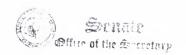
² https://doh.gov.ph/sites/default/files/publications/DOH-Hospitals-Profile_0.pdf

To date, the City of Taguig has four (4) 24/7 Super Health Centers. These Super Health Centers have been offering basic medical facilities, with free consultation, antirabies injections, laboratory, dental, breastfeeding, child delivery, and ambulance services among others. Quality care is also ensured by duly licensed doctors, nurses, midwives, and Barangay Health Workers (BHWs). Taguig residents are a testament to the successes of these Super Health Centers for the easy access and quality primary care it promised and continues to fulfill, as they hail the accessibility and assistance they get, especially in medical emergencies.

Having Super Health Centers in every city or municipality will contribute to the national government's mandate of delivering a comprehensive and accessible health care within the reach of the people. The enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health should not only be a constitutional dictum or remain an aspiration, but must actually be realized for the benefit of every Filipino.

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

ALAN PETER "COMPAÑERO" S. CAYETANO



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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 "Super Health Centers in All Cities and Municipalities Act."

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SEC. 2. Statement of Policy. – Section 15 of Article II of the 1987 Constitution provides that "[t]he State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them." On the other hand, Section 16 of Article II provides that "[t]he State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature."

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Healthcare that is based on practical, scientifically-sound and socially acceptable methods and technology should be made universally accessible to individuals and families in every city and municipality in the country. It is therefore the bounden duty of the State to build world class but accessible and affordable health and educational facilities throughout the country that provide excellent services to the Filipino people.

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SEC. 3. Definition of Terms. -

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- a. "Primary health services" or "primary health care" shall mean the initial contact of an individual with an accessible and coordinated health system to manage health problems or issues that are less severe or uncomplicated, including, but not limited to the following:

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i. Diagnosis and treatment of health problems;

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- ii. Prevention of health problems;
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- iii. Early intervention; and

Managing ongoing and long-term conditions.

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b. "Super Health Center" shall mean an accessible and fully equipped health hub that delivers primary health services and caters to less severe. uncomplicated or out-patient health care services.

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SEC. 4. Establishment of Super Health Centers. - Each city and municipality shall establish at least one Super Health Center within its territorial jurisdiction. The Super Health Centers shall have the following minimum standards:

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a) Facilities, rooms, and spaces which are accessible, especially to the elderly and Persons with Disability, and with appropriate signage;

b) Basic health equipment and facilities appropriate for the provision of primary health services:

c) Data and information management system that shall contain, store, and secure the health and other relevant data of the patients, in accordance with the provisions of the Data Privacy Act.

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The Department of Health (DOH), in coordination with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), shall issue guidelines for the proper implementation of this Act, and shall provide assistance to cities and municipalities in establishing the Super Health Centers. Medical services provided within the Super Health Centers and their providers shall be accredited by the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth).

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SEC. 5. Staffing. - All Super Health Centers established under this Act shall have such sufficient number of staffing as determined by the DOH, dependent on the population of the city or municipality concerned.

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

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SEC. 6. Services. – All Super Health Centers established under this Act shall be equipped with the most basic facilities that can cater to less severe, uncomplicated, and/or out-patient health care services.

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SEC. 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR). - Within 60 days upon the approval of this Act, the DOH, in coordination with the DSWD, the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), and the Department of the Interior and Local Government, shall prepare and issue such rules and regulations necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act.

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Thereafter, the DPWH shall ensure the commencement of the creation of Super Health Centers within the fiscal year after appropriating the budget therefore.

SEC. 8. Appropriations. – The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be appropriated from the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment, and every year thereafter.

SEC. 9. Separability Clause. – If any part or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other parts hereof not affected thereby shall remain valid.

SEC. 10. Repealing Clause. – All laws, acts, presidential decrees, executive orders, administrative orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are deemed amended, modified or repealed accordingly.

SEC. 11. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,