

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

5 AUG 23 P2:09

SENATE
S.B. No. **2089**

RECEIVED BY: _____

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article 2, Section 15, provides that:

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

In the United States, the life expectancy gap between men and women has increased from one year in 1920 to almost six years in 2002. Here in the Philippines, in 2005, the Department of Health (DOH) places the life expectancy of males at 67.83 years while that of women at 73.08 years. According to a study conducted by Dr. Thomas Perls and Dr. Ruth Fretts of the Harvard Medical School, women around the world have a survival advantage over men – sometimes by as much as 10 years. Main reasons for this could be that women are 100% more likely than men to visit a doctor, have regular check-ups, and obtain preventive screening tests for serious diseases.

This may result in a health crisis affecting the health and well-being of men. While this may be a particular concern of men, it may also be a concern for women regarding their fathers, husbands, sons, and brothers. Men's health is a concern for employers who pay the costs of medical care, and lose productive employees. Men's health is also a concern of our national and local governments that absorb the enormous costs of premature death and disability, including the costs of caring for dependents left behind.

Appropriate use of tests which are exclusive for men such as prostate specific antigen for prostate cancer, doppler for varicocele, and testicular ultrasound for testicular cancer, can result in the early detection of many problems and in increased survival rates.

Early detection of male health problems is vital as it can result in reducing rates of mortality for male-specific diseases, and improve men's health and their overall economic well-being. Thus, educating men, their families, and health care providers about this is imperative.

An Office of Men's Health is needed to coordinate the fragmented men's health awareness, prevention, and research efforts being conducted by the DOH and non-government organizations. This bill seeks to save the lives of men by establishing an Office of Men's Health within the DOH that will conduct further actions as may be needed to promote men's health.

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
MS

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

5 AUG 23 P2:49

SENATE
S.B. No. **2089**

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

AN ACT

TO SAVE THE LIVES OF MEN BY ESTABLISHING WITHIN THE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AN OFFICE OF MEN'S HEALTH

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Men’s Health Act of 2005.”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to protect and promote
the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.

SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act, the following terms:

(a) “Men’s health conditions” – shall refer to all diseases, disorders, and
conditions –

(1) unique to, more serious, or more prevalent in men;

(2) for which the factors of medical risk or types of medical intervention
are different for men, or for which it is unknown whether such factors or types are
different for men; or

(3) with respect to which there has been insufficient clinical research
involving men as subjects or insufficient clinical data on men.

(b) “Research on men’s health” – shall refer to research on men’s health
conditions, including research on preventing such conditions.

(c) “DOH” – shall refer to the Department of Health.

(d) “Secretary” – shall refer to the Department of Health (DOH) Secretary.

(e) “Director” – shall refer to the Director of the Office of Men’s Health.

(f) “Committee” – shall refer to the Advisory Committee on Men’s Health.

SECTION 4. *Office of Men's Health.* – The Secretary shall establish within the DOH an office to be known as the Office of Men's Health which shall be headed by a Director to be appointed by the DOH. The Director shall have the following functions:

- (a) coordinate and promote the status of men's health throughout the country;
- (b) identify projects of research on men's health that should be conducted or supported by both the government and non-government agencies;
- (c) promote coordination and collaboration among entities conducting research on men's health;
- (d) recommend an agenda for conducting and supporting such research; and
- (e) encourage the conduct of such research.

SECTION 5. *Advisory Committee on Men's Health.* – In assisting the Director in carrying out his functions, the Secretary shall establish a Committee to be known as the Advisory Committee on Men's Health which shall have the following functions:

- (a) Advise the Secretary, through the Director, on appropriate research activities to be undertaken by the Office with respect to the Research on men's health;
- (b) Report to the Secretary, through the Director, on such research;
- (c) Provide recommendations to the Secretary, through the Director, regarding the activities of the Office on Men's health; and
- (d) Prepare a report regarding the activities of the Committee.

SECTION 6. *Composition.* – The Committee shall be composed of nine (9) members which shall include the following:

- (a) Two (2) representatives from the DOH;
- (b) Four (4) physicians, practitioners and other health personnel;
- (c) Two (2) representatives from a non-government organization which conducts research on men's health; and
- (d) One (1) representative from the general public.

SECTION 7. *Meetings.* – The Advisory Committee shall determine the number, time, and place and conduct of meetings, except that it shall hold at least one (1) public meeting each year

at which the general public is given an opportunity to express views concerning the conduct of research on men's health by the Office of Men's Health.

SECTION 8. *Term.* – Members shall be appointed by the Secretary for a term of three (3) years. Of those first appointed, three (3) members shall serve for three (3) years, three (3) members for two years, and the last three members for one (1) year.

Any vacancy in the membership of the Committee shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointments.

Any member of the Committee may be removed for cause in accordance with procedures established by the Committee.

SECTION 9. *Report.* – Not later than two (2) years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, acting through the Director, shall submit to the Congress a report describing the activities conducted by the Office of Men's Health.

SECTION 10. *Appropriation.* – To carry out the provisions of this Act, such amount as may be necessary is hereby authorized to be appropriated from the National Treasury. Thereafter, the amount necessary for the continuous operation of the Office of Men's Health shall be included in the annual appropriation of the DOH.

SECTION 11. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part thereof, is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law of the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 12. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to, or inconsistent with, the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SECTION 13. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,