

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

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SENATE
S.B. No. 2669

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Preventive medicine is defined as that specialty of medical practice which focuses on the health of individuals in order to protect, promote and maintain health and well-being and prevent disease, disability and premature death. Specialists in preventive medicines are uniquely trained in both clinical medicine and public health. They have the skills needed to understand and reduce the risks of disease, disability and death in individuals and in population groups.

This specialty in medical practice includes both clinical and non-clinical aspects. Clinicians see patients on a daily basis and provide services in screening, health counseling, and immunization to diabetics, cardiac patients, and others who can benefit from prevention and lifestyle modification. Non-clinical preventive medicine includes health policy, social and behavioral aspects of health and disease, epidemiology, or other areas in which populations, not individual patients are not the primary focus. Many preventive medicine physicians practice both clinical and non-clinical medicine. This is the only specialty that requires training in both clinical medicine and public health.

In the workplace, preventive medicine doctors in occupational medicine parallel the general public health system in dealing with illnesses and injuries in workplace populations through worker protection, personal health promotion, hazard control, business continuity and effective medical management. However, there is an extreme shortage of doctors in the public health field. Thus, there is an urgent need to enact the policy of providing grants for the training of medical residents in preventive medicine and public health.

MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
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AN ACT
PROVIDING GRANTS FOR THE TRAINING OF MEDICAL RESIDENTS IN PREVENTIVE
MEDICINE AND PUBLIC 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 "Preventive Medicine and Public Health Training Act of 2007."

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. Pursuant to this policy, this Act seeks to provide grants for the training of medical residents in preventive medicine and public health.

SECTION 3. *Grants Authorized* -

(A) IN GENERAL - The Secretary of Health, acting through the Director, may award grants to, or enter into contracts with, eligible entities to provide training to graduate medical residents in preventive medicine specialties.

(B) ELIGIBILITY - To be eligible to receive a grant or contract under subsection (A), an entity shall--

(1) be a school of public health, public health department, school of medicine, public or private hospital, or public or private non-profit entity;

(2) submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require; and

(3) maintain and adhere to a Letter of Agreement with a local community health center that supports practicum training of preventive medicine residents, if practicable.

(C) USE OF FUNDS - Amounts received under a grant or contract under this section shall be used to--

(1) to plan, develop, and operate residency programs for preventive medicine or public health;

(2) provide financial assistance, including tuition and stipends, to resident physicians who plan to specialize in preventive medicine or public health;

(3) defray the costs associated with the planning, development, and operation of preventive medicine or public health programs, including the development of curriculum to be used in such programs, and the costs of practicum experiences; and

(4) provide for the improvement of academic administrative units.

(D) Duration of Award- A grant or contract under this section shall be for a term not to exceed 5 years.

SECTION 4. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the Act or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 5. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SECTION 6. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,