

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

8 JUL 21 P 3:32

SENATE
S. No. 2452

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by **Senator Richard J. Gordon**

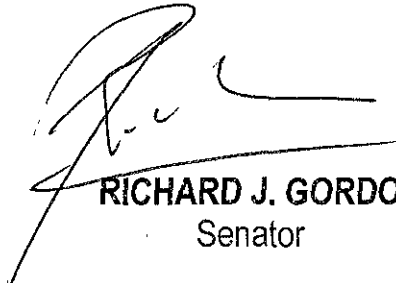
EXPLANATORY NOTE

Decades ago, infectious diseases were the main cause of mortality, even in the most developed countries. Now mass immunization programs have made a remarkable impact on preventive medicine all over the world. These programs have had a significant impact on the reduction of mortality and in diphtheria and tetanus cases in most of the industrialized world.

In the Philippines, the government has promoted immunizations and vitamin A supplementation since the early 1990s. At one time, nearly 90 percent of children aged six and younger were covered. In spite of this success, the lives of thousands of the most impoverished children in the country remain threatened by diseases that can easily be prevented. The gap is growing between these imperiled young children and those living in the industrialized world who have life-saving vaccines readily available. The World Health Organization estimates that every year, vaccination saves the lives of three million children throughout the world, yet another two million children die because they do not have access to existing vaccines.

This bill proposes to establish a comprehensive vaccination program that will provide free vaccination services to infants and children, through government hospitals, satellite offices, accredited government clinics and other medical institutions. The program shall be administered by the Department of Health.

Immunization goes beyond simply protecting the individual, important as that is. It also aims to improve the health of entire communities by limiting the spread of infectious disease among children and adults. Upon these considerations, the prompt passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



RICHARD J. GORDON
Senator

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A COMPREHENSIVE VACCINATION AND IMMUNIZATION
PROGRAM FOR FILIPINO INFANTS AND CHILDREN, PROVIDING FUNDS
THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 **SECTION 1. Title.** This Act shall be known as the "*Free Vaccination and*
2 *Immunization Act of 2008.*"

3 **Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy.** - The right to health is a fundamental guarantee
4 enshrined in the Constitution. It is the policy of the State to instill health consciousness
5 among the people and to protect and promote their right to accessible and quality health
6 services.

7 Recognizing that vaccinations and immunizations for children have become
8 expensive and barely accessible for poor families, it is hereby likewise declared the policy of
9 the State that a comprehensive vaccination and immunization program be made available to
10 the public for free and its administration adopted as a program of social justice.

11 **Sec. 3. Components.** - The Department of Health, through all government hospitals,
12 its satellite offices, accredited government clinics and other medical institutions, shall
13 provide for free to infants and children vaccination and immunization services for the
14 following diseases:

- 15 a. Hepatitis B;
16 b. DPT - diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough);
17 c. Influenza type B;
18 d. Polio (Salk injected);
19 e. Rotavirus (diarrhea and gastroenteritis)
20 f. Measles, Mumps, Rubella (German measles);

1 g. Varicella (chicken pox)

2 *Provided*, That exemptions may be chosen by the parents on account of religious belief that
3 prohibits vaccinations and immunizations, or for medical reasons and which is certified by a
4 licensed medical practitioner, or for any other valid reason that may be advanced by the
5 parents of the infant or child, as necessary. *Provided*, further, that a certain day of the week
6 must be devoted for immunization and vaccination in all local government unit health
7 centers.

8 **Sec. 4. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - The Department of Health, in
9 consultation with the national association of pediatrics and recognized experts from the
10 private sector, and non-governmental organizations and peoples' organizations and
11 academe on child health and care, shall issue the relevant rules and regulations to
12 implement the provisions of this Act.

13 **Sec. 5. Fund.** - The amount of One Billion Pesos (P1,000,000,000) annually to
14 implement the provisions of this Act covering the comprehensive free immunization and
15 vaccination of children shall be included and incorporated in the budget of the Department
16 of Health in the General Appropriations Act. One percent (1%) of all earnings made by
17 government-owned and controlled corporations shall be collected and form part of the fund
18 that may be used for this purpose.

19 **Sec. 6. Separability Clause.** - If for any reason, any provision of this Act is declared
20 invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be
21 in full force and effect.

22 **Sec. 7. Repealing Clause.** - All executive issuances, rules and regulations or parts
23 thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended
24 or modified accordingly.

25 **Sec. 8. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect 15 days after its complete publication
26 in the Official Gazette or in two newspapers of general circulation.

27 Approved,