

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
First Regular Session

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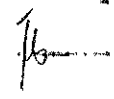
SENATE  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

10 JUL 12 AM 12:24

SENATE

Senate Bill No. 1179

RECEIVED BY



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Introduced by Senator Manny Villar

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### EXPLANATORY NOTE

It is a fact that Filipino women tend to give priority to the needs of their families that they can even sacrifice their own health and well-being. But, women's health and welfare is of paramount importance considering that women constitute half of our country's population and women's health and well-being affect the health of the next generation. A look at women's health situation in the areas of nutrition, maternal, childbearing/ reproductive and other health concerns indicate that much remains to be done.

This bill seeks to grant free medical and hospitalization benefits to indigent Filipino women suffering from women's diseases, illnesses and injuries due to violence and abuses thru the establishment of a special ward in provincial and district hospitals which are capable of providing major clinical services.

Granting free medical treatment and hospitalization benefits to indigent women is in consonance with the Constitutional provisions that recognizes the need for such facilities and opportunities that will enhance their welfare and enable them to realize their full potential in the service of the nation.

Hence, the approval of this bill is earnestly requested.



MANNY VILLAR

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**AN ACT  
GRANTING FREE MEDICAL AND HOSPITALIZATION BENEFITSTO  
INDIGENT FILIPINO WOMEN SUFFERING FROM WOMEN'S DISEASES,  
ILLNESSES AND INJURIES DUE TO VIOLENCE INFLICTED ON WOMEN,  
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the "Women's Medical and  
Hospitalization Benefits Act."

SECTION 2. Free medical and hospitalization benefits shall be granted to  
indigent Filipino women suffering from women's diseases, such as cancer of the  
reproductive organ, cancer of the breast and pregnancy-related diseases;  
illnesses and injuries due to violence inflicted on women. For this purpose, a  
special ward shall be established in all provincial and district hospitals.

SECTION 3. An indigent woman patient seeking to avail of the benefits  
herein provided shall secure a certification from the Department of Social Welfare  
and Development attesting that she is indigent and suffering from any of the  
abovementioned diseases, illnesses or injuries. For the purpose of this act,  
indigent patients shall include the employed and those whose monthly gross  
income does not exceed Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00).

SECTION 4. The Department of Health, in coordination with the  
Department of Social Welfare and Development, shall promulgate implementing  
rules and regulations sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act.

SECTION 5. The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act  
shall be charged to the appropriations of the Department of Health under the  
current General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such amount necessary for the  
continued implementation of this Act shall be included the annual budget of the  
local governments concerned.

SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,