

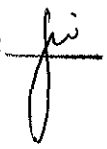
SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



Senate
Office of the Secretary

13 JUL -3 P12:25

SENATE
S. No. 328

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by SENATOR PIA S. CAYETANO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill designates every third week of November as "National Consciousness Week Against Counterfeit Medicines" in order to draw and raise public attention and awareness about counterfeit medicines and the urgency to control its proliferation in the country.

The proliferation of counterfeit medicines is a serious public health concern not only in the Philippines but worldwide. The World Health Organization (WHO) reports that between 8 - 10 percent of pharmaceutical products in the market are 'counterfeit' medicines. Likewise, the Department of Health estimates around 10 percent of the medicines available in the country are counterfeit or fake medicines. Despite the passage of Republic Act No. 8203, or the "Special Law on Counterfeit Drugs," this serious threat to public health continues to exist and may potentially harm thousands of Filipinos.

An individual who takes a counterfeit drug may be at risk for a number of dangerous health consequences, including death. With counterfeits, patients may experience unexpected side effects, allergic reactions, or worsening of their medical condition that could result in death.

This bill mandates a comprehensive public education and awareness program on counterfeit medicines to help enlighten people about this serious concern and push for the strict implementation of the laws aimed to curb the proliferation of counterfeit medicines. A focal point of this program is an information campaign about the importance of protecting the Filipinos from the harmful effects of counterfeit medicines.

For the health and protection of our people, immediate approval of this bill is sought.


SENATOR PIA S. CAYETANO

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**AN ACT DECLARING EVERY THIRD WEEK OF NOVEMBER OF EVERY
YEAR AS "NATIONAL CONSCIOUSNESS WEEK AGAINST COUNTERFEIT
MEDICINES"**

*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 "National Consciousness
Week Against Counterfeit Medicines Act."

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. - In line with the principles and mandates set
by the Philippine Constitution that "the State shall protect and promote the right
to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them" (Article 2,
Section 15) and that "the State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive
approach to health development" (Article 13, Section 11), the third week of
November of every year throughout the Philippines shall be known under the
name of "National Counterfeit Medicines Consciousness Week."

SECTION 3. Public Education and Awareness Program. - To ensure the
meaningful observance of the week as herein declared, a comprehensive public
education and awareness program shall be undertaken on the proliferation and
dangers of counterfeit medicines which poses detrimental effects to health of
patients, The program shall specifically discuss the sources, common
characteristics, and effects of counterfeit medicines, including the urgent need for
reporting of incidents to the Bureau of Food and Drugs and the strict enforcement
of RA 8203, otherwise known as "The Special Law on Counterfeit Drugs."

SECTION 4. Inter-Agency and Multi-Sectoral Effort, - The Department of Health
shall lead in the implementation of the comprehensive public education and

awareness program on counterfeit medicines through a collaborative inter-agency and multisectoral effort at all levels. It shall particularly ensure widespread and expeditious public information about the proliferation and dangers of counterfeit medicines.

SECTION 5. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,