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SENATE

S. NO. 648

BY:

**Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV**

### EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article II Section 13 of the 1987 Constitution declares that the State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual and social well-being. Moreover, Section 15 of the same affirms that the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them. Notwithstanding such policy assertions, government efforts remain inadequate, in light of the soaring statistics of children afflicted with and dying of cancer, to wit:

- *3,000 to 3,500 children are diagnosed with cancer often at an advanced stage every year. Late diagnosis is a major problem with parents and local doctors unaware of the early signs of childhood cancer.<sup>1</sup>*
- *Around 80% of children fail to complete the full course of treatment. It can be assumed that those who abandon treatment eventually die since cancer is ultimately fatal if not treated.<sup>2</sup>*
- *Metro Manila cancer registry records in three hospitals show that eight kids/one every three hours, die everyday. Many more cases and deaths remain unreported.<sup>3</sup>*
- *In developed countries, childhood cancer survival rate is as high as ninety-five percent (95%). In the Philippines, sadly, it is only ten to thirty percent (10-30%). Of the ten who are diagnosed, only two or three will most likely survive. They die because they are poor, unable to afford the high costs of medication and treatment.*

It is against this alarming and bleak backdrop that this bill seeks to establish a government hospital especially committed to the treatment and care of indigent Filipino children suffering from cancer. Further, this measure also provides that the hospital shall be the center for children's research of the Government.

It is hoped that the passage of this measure shall provide a national model for the treatment and care of children with cancer, and accordingly, reduce cancer morbidity and mortality among children in the country.

In view of foregoing, immediate approval of this measure.

ANTONIO "SONNY" F. TRILLANES IV  
Senator

<sup>1</sup>World Child Cancer. Information retrieved from: <http://www.worldchildcancer.org/philippines> on 18 June 2013.

<sup>2</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>3</sup>Cancer Warriors Foundation, Inc. Information retrieved from <http://www.pia.gov.ph/?m=12&sec=reader&rp=1&fi=p09040S.htm&no=S&date=04/OS/2009> on 18 June 2013.

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



Senate  
Office of the Secretary

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RECEIVED BY: *[Signature]*

SENATE

S. NO. 648

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Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV

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AN ACT  
ESTABLISHING THE CHILDREN'S CANCER HOSPITAL OF THE PHILIPPINES,  
PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1           **SECTION 1. Short Title.** - This Act shall be known as the "*Children's Cancer Hospital*  
2   *Act of 2013.*"

3  
4           **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** - The State recognizes the vital role of the youth in  
5 nation- building and shall promote and protect their physical well-being. The State shall adopt an  
6 integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make  
7 essential health services available to all the people at the affordable cost especially the children.

8  
9           **SEC. 3. Children's Cancer Hospital.**— There is hereby established, under the  
10 Department of Health (DOH), a hospital for the benefit of Filipino children suffering from  
11 cancer, to be known as the Children's Cancer Hospital (CCH), which shall be under the  
12 management and supervision of a Director who must be a physician of good repute and of  
13 recognized standing in the field of Oncology.

1           **SEC. 4. Indigent Children with cancer.** - It shall be incumbent upon the CCH to render  
2 free medical service and give accommodation gratuitously to indigent children afflicted with  
3 cancer, subject to the rules and regulations of the DOH.

4

5           **SEC. 5. Cancer Research.**— The CCH shall be the center for children's cancer research of  
6 the Government. The Director shall provide a venue for cooperation with private research  
7 institutes.

8

9           **SEC. 6. Government Contributions.**— The Government shall constitute the necessary  
10 land, building, equipment and facilities to the CCH and shall pay such obligations for  
11 real, personal and mixed properties arising from such undertaking.

12

13           **SEC. 7. Assistance from Government Offices.**— The CCH may call upon any department,  
14 bureau, office, agency or instrumentality of the Government, including government owned or  
15 controlled corporations, for such assistance as it may need in the pursuit of its purposes and  
16 objectives. All individuals, entities and institutions are hereby enjoined to render full assistance  
17 and cooperation to the CCH in the accomplishment of its objectives and activities.

18

19           **SEC. 8. Tax Exemptions, etc.** - All donations, contributions or endowments which may  
20 be made by entities or persons to the CCH shall be exempt from income and gift taxes.

21

22           The CCH shall be exempt from the payment of taxes, charges and fees imposed by the  
23 government or any political subdivision or instrumentality thereof with respect to equipment  
24 purchases made by, or for, the CCH

1           **SEC. 9. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - The DOH shall formulate the  
2 necessary guidelines and promulgate rules and regulations implementing the provisions of this  
3 Act.

4  
5           **SEC. 10. Appropriation.** - Such sums as may be necessary for the immediate  
6 implementation of the provisions of this Act is hereby authorized to be appropriated out of any  
7 funds in the National Treasury not otherwise appropriated. Thereafter, funds for its  
8 implementation shall be included in the regular appropriations of the DOH.

9  
10           **SEC. 11. Repealing Clause.** - All laws, decrees, executive orders or parts thereof  
11 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified  
12 accordingly.

13  
14           **SEC. 12. Separability Clause.** - If any provision of this Act is held invalid or any  
15 unconstitutional, other provisions not affected shall continue to be in full force and effect.

16  
17           **SEC. 13. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete  
18 publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of national circulation.

Approved,