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SENATE
S. No. 1869

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article 2, Section 15, provides:

Sec. 15. The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.

Well-woman visits are the foundation on which women's preventive care is built. Such visits include not only specific screening tests, but also a medical history, physical examination, evaluation and counseling, and, as indicated, vaccinations.

Over the past 20 years, it has become clear that 'one size does not fit all' when it comes to prevention. Although a 30-year-old woman without risk factors for cervical cancer may only need a Pap test with HPV co-testing every five years, the same woman would need more frequent screening if she were infected with HIV or had a history of cervical cancer precursors.

It is only after taking a medical history and evaluating and counseling a patient that a physician can make patient-specific recommendations for screening tests, vaccinations, preventive medications, and other preventive services.

Well-woman visits facilitate increased access to health care that is shown to identify chronic disease risk factors, promote well-being, and decrease the likelihood or delay the onset of a targeted disease or condition.

Women are less likely than men to receive aggressive diagnosis and treatment for various diseases. Women are more likely than men to have forgone needed health care due to cost.

This bill mandates the Department of Health to promote preventive health practices among women.

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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1 AN ACT
2 PROVIDING FOR A NATIONAL PUBLIC OUTREACH AND EDUCATION CAMPAIGN
3 TO RAISE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF WOMEN'S PREVENTIVE HEALTH

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

4 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This shall be known as the “Women's Preventive Health
5 Awareness Campaign Act.”

6 SECTION 2. *Women's Preventive Health Awareness Campaign.* – The Department of
7 Health shall provide for the planning and implementation of a national public outreach and
8 education campaign to raise public awareness, including provider awareness, of women's
9 preventive health. Such campaign shall include the media campaign under Section 3 and the
10 website under Section 5 and shall provide for the dissemination of information that—

11 A. describes the guidelines for women's preventive services, including
12 recommendations on cervical cancer prevention;

13 B. promotes well-woman visits for health assessments which include screenings,
14 evaluations, counseling, immunizations, and prenatal visits, as appropriate;

15 C. explains the women's preventive service programs of the government and other
16 preventive services that may be availed of from private health institutions;

17 SECTION 3. *Media Campaign.* – Not later than one year after the date of the enactment
18 of this Act, as part of the campaign under Section 2, the Department of Health shall establish and
19 implement a national media campaign.

1 SECTION 4. *Requirements of the Media Campaign.* - The campaign implemented under
2 Section 3 —

3 A. shall disseminate information about the updated guidelines for women's
4 preventive services described in Section 2A, promote well-woman visits described in Section 2B,
5 and provide information on the women's preventive services described in Section 2C; and

6 B. may include the use of television, radio, Internet, and other commercial marketing
7 venues.

8 SECTION 5. *Website.* - As part of the campaign under Section 2, the Department of
9 Health shall, in consultation with private sector experts or through contract with a private entity
10 including a medical association or non-profit organization, maintain and update an Internet
11 website to provide information and resources about the updated guidelines for women's
12 preventive services described in Section 2A, promote well-woman visits, and provide
13 information on the women's preventive services described in Section 2C.

14 SECTION 6. *Appropriations.* - Such sums as maybe necessary for the implementation of
15 this Act is hereby appropriated.

16 SECTION 7. *Separability Clause.* If any provision or part thereof is held invalid or
17 unconstitutional, the remainder of the Act or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain
18 valid and subsisting.

19 SECTION 8. *Repealing Clause.* - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
20 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent
21 with this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

22 SECTION 9. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
23 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Adopted,