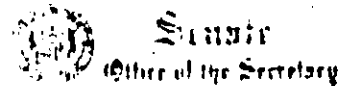


SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)



15 NOV 26 P4:57

SENATE
S. No. 3017

RECEIVED BY: *J.*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

AN ACT
AUTHORIZING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CARRY OUT PROGRAMS
AND GRANTS REGARDING THE PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT OF
ASTHMA AND RELATED RESPIRATORY PROBLEMS FOR LOW-INCOME
FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article 2, Section 15, provides:

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

Asthma is the most common chronic respiratory disease among children and is the third leading cause of preventable hospitalizations.

According to the United Nations Daily Highlights, asthma kills over 180,000 people worldwide annually. In the Philippines, asthma affects over six (6) million children. The Philippines is ranked 32nd in "self-reported asthma." The country has a prevalence rate of about 12 %. A nationwide study conducted by the University of Santo Tomas showed that about 12.4% of children aged 14 to 15 years old are afflicted with asthma. Most of these children come from low-income families or communities. Over all, one out of 10 Filipinos has asthma, based on a Philippine General Hospital survey.

The government has a major role to alleviate the effects of asthma and other related respiratory diseases among its constituents living in poverty. This bill seeks to authorize the Department of Health to carry out programs and grants regarding the

prevention and management of asthma and related respiratory problems for low-income families and communities.¹

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
✽

¹ This bill was filed during the Fourteenth Congress, First Regular Session.

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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 “Asthma Awareness,
2 Education, and Treatment Act.”

3 SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to protect and
4 promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.

5 SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.*– As used in this Act, the term:

6 (A) “Asthma” means the chronic and inflammatory lung disease
7 characterized by recurrent breathing problems. It is a respiratory disorder
8 characterized by wheezing usually of allergic origin.

9 (B) “Committee” means the National Asthma Education Prevention
10 Program Coordinating Committee.

11 (C) “DOH” means the Department of Health.

12 (D) “Secretary” means the DOH Secretary.

1 **SECTION 4. *Grants of Projects for Asthma-Related Activities for Low-Income***
2 ***Families and Communities.*** –

3 **(A) In General.** – The Secretary shall provide grants to applicant public and
4 nonprofit private entities to carry out projects which will aid individuals in low-income
5 families and communities. Such aid shall include, but not be limited to:

6 (1) Screenings for and referrals regarding asthma and related respiratory
7 problems in accordance with paragraph (B);

8 (2) Providing information and education regarding the conditions in
9 accordance with paragraph (C); and

10 (3) Holding or sponsoring workshops regarding the conditions for parents,
11 teachers, physical education instructors, school nurses, school counselors, athletic
12 coaches, and other individuals who serve in supervisory roles of children in such
13 communities.

14 **(B) Screenings and Referrals.**– The Secretary shall ensure that screenings for and
15 referrals to the proper health personnel regarding asthma, and related respiratory
16 problems under paragraph (A) are comprehensive, and that the settings in which the
17 screenings and referrals are provided include –

18 (1) Traditional medical settings such as hospitals, health clinics, and the
19 offices of physicians; and

20 (2) Non-traditional settings for the provision of such services, such as
21 nurseries, elementary and secondary schools, community centers, public housing
22 units, volunteer organizations, convenience stores, local governmental offices, day
23 care centers, sites that offer nutrition-related services for women, infants, and
24 children, and governmental offices that provide cash assistance for low-income
25 individuals.

1 (C) Information and Education. – The Secretary shall ensure that information and
2 education on asthma and related respiratory problems under paragraph (A) are provided
3 in accordance with the following:

4 (1) The information and education will be provided in the language and
5 cultural context that is most appropriate for the individuals for whom the
6 information and education are intended.

7 (2) The information and education shall include the following:

8 (a) Symptoms of the conditions.

9 (b) Prevention of the conditions.

10 (c) Monitoring and management of the conditions, including–

11 (i) Avoiding circumstances that may cause asthma attacks or
12 other respiratory problems; and

13 (ii) Being aware of appropriate medication options, such as
14 the need to keep in one's possession an asthma inhaler.

15 (d) The importance of developing a treatment plan that will permit
16 asthmatic children to regularly engage in sports and other physical
17 activities.

18 (3) The places in which the information and education will be provided,
19 which include the traditional settings described in paragraph (B)(1) and the
20 nontraditional settings described in paragraph (B)(2).

21 (D) Preparation of the Report on the Projects. – The Secretary shall prepare a
22 report on the projects carried under paragraph (A), which shall include:

23 (1) The number of low income children and adults who shall have been
24 screened and given referrals through the projects;

25 (2) The extent the projects have had an effect on the manner in which
26 individuals prevent and manage asthma and related respiratory problems; and

1 (3) An evaluation of the effectiveness of materials used in providing
2 information and education.

3 (E) Inclusion in Project of Local Community-Based Organization. – To receive a
4 grant under paragraph (A) an applicant must:

5 (1) Be a community-based organization that provides services in the low-
6 income community in which the project is to be carried out; or

7 (2) Demonstrate to the Secretary that one or more representatives from such
8 an organization will play a substantial role in carrying out the project.

9 (F) Application for Grant. – The Secretary may make a grant under paragraph (A)
10 only if an application for the grant is submitted to the Secretary and the application is in
11 such form, is made in such manner, and contains such agreements, assurances, and
12 information as the Secretary determines to be necessary to carry out this section.

13 **SECTION 5. *National Media Campaign To Provide Asthma-Related Information.***

14 –
15 (A) In General. – The Secretary may make awards of contracts to provide for a
16 national media campaign to provide to the public and health care providers information
17 on asthma and related respiratory problems, with priority given to the occurrence of such
18 conditions in children.

19 (B) Certain Requirements. –The Secretary shall ensure that the national media
20 campaign under paragraph (A) is carried out in accordance with the following:

21 (1) The campaign provides information regarding the prevention and
22 management of asthma and related respiratory problems.

23 (2) With respect to a community in which the campaign is carried out–

1 (a) The campaign provides information regarding the availability in
2 the community of programs that provide screenings, referrals, and
3 treatment of the conditions and training in managing the conditions; and

4 (b) The campaign is carried out in the language and cultural context
5 that is most appropriate for the individuals for whom the campaign is
6 intended. The campaign message, while tailored to the affected population,
7 should have universal appeal and application to populations with different
8 demographic backgrounds.

9 SECTION 6. *Research on Relationship between Air Pollutants and Asthma-*
10 *Related Problems.* –

11 (A) In General. – The Secretary, in consultation with the proper agency of the
12 Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) shall provide for the conduct
13 of research to determine the kind and extent of air pollutants that cause asthma and
14 related respiratory problems.

15 (B) Requirement Regarding Clinical Participants. –

16 (1) In General. – In the conduct of clinical research under subsection (A),
17 the Secretary shall give priority to providing individuals described in the
18 succeeding paragraph opportunities to undergo clinical evaluations for purposes of
19 the research.

20 (2) Relevant Populations. – For purposes of paragraph (1), the individuals
21 referred to in this paragraph are individuals who are residents of communities in
22 which the average family income is at or below the poverty line, as established by
23 the Department of Budget and Management (DBM).

1 **SECTION 7. *National Asthma Education Prevention Program Coordinating***
2 ***Committee.*** – There shall be a Committee established within the DOH who shall:

3 **(A)** Conduct local asthma surveillance activities to collect data on the prevalence
4 and severity of asthma and the quality of asthma management, including -

5 **(1)** Telephone surveys to collect sample household data on the local burden
6 of asthma; and

7 **(2)** Health care facility specific surveillance to collect asthma data on the
8 prevalence and severity of asthma, and on the quality of asthma care; and

9 **(B)** Compile and annually publish data on –

10 **(1)** The prevalence of children suffering from asthma in each region; and

11 **(2)** The childhood mortality rate associated with asthma nationally and in
12 each region.

13 **SECTION 8. *Appropriations.***– To carry out the provisions of this Act, such sums
14 as maybe necessary are hereby authorized to be appropriated from the National Treasury.

15 **SECTION 9. *Separability Clause.***– If any provision of this Act is held invalid or
16 unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other
17 provisions hereof.

18 **SECTION 10. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, orders, and issuances, or
19 portions thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby
20 repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

21 **SECTION 11. *Effectivity Clause.***–This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after
22 its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

/fmf9Nov2015