

SENATE

S. No. 519

Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV

AN ACT
CREATING A POSITION OF RURAL DENTIST IN EVERY RURAL HEALTH
UNIT UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Many of the dental diseases are considered as public health problems in developing countries. In the Philippines, such problems, exacerbated by the lack of proper dental health practices of the general population, have become serious national concerns.

The ubiquitous effects of the magnitude of the dental problem can be translated in economic terms. Every tooth affected means two (2) days loss of productivity, lost opportunities, recurring pain and severe discomfort as well as increased cost of dental treatments.

This bill seeks to create a position of rural dentist in every rural health unit to avert the loss in economic productivity of our people and to alleviate the discomfort felt by those afflicted with such diseases. Considering that there are six hundred fifty-two (652) rural health dentists in the plantilla of the Department of Health distributed in the twelve (12) regions, the creation of one (1) dentist position in each of the 1,991 rural health units under the Department of Health, the priority targets of dental health services - pre-school children, school children, pregnant and non-pregnant mothers and other adults - will be adequately served.¹

While it will cost an additional P35 million a year in terms of personal services, the benefits to be derived from these services will be tremendous. An addition of 8,034,000 children, mothers and adults can be properly attended to.²

With these positions, the ratio of dentist to the population will approach the standard ratio of 1:20,000 population, similar to that of physicians.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


ANTONIO "SONNY" F. TRILLANES
Senator

¹ <http://www.virtual-asia.com/phlbizpakireports/ljiJeslhealthyh.pdf>

² Ibid.

SENATE

S. No. 519

Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV

AN ACT
CREATING A POSITION OF RURAL DENTIST IN EVERY RURAL HEALTH
UNIT UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR

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

1 **SECTION 1.** There is hereby created a position of rural dentist in every rural health
2 unit under the supervision of the Department of Health.

3
4 **SEC. 2.** The Department of Health shall issue rules and regulations for the effective
5 implementation of this Act.

6
7 **SEC. 3.** The amount necessary for the effective implementation of this Act shall be
8 funded out of the appropriations of the Department of Health under Republic Act Numbered
9 Sixty-Six Hundred Forty-Two. Thereafter, such amounts as may be necessary for the
10 continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations
11 Act.

12
13 **SEC. 4.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two
14 (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,