


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



Senate
Office of the Secretary

'16 AUG 18 AIO :02

SENATE
S. B. No. 1048

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

AN ACT DECLARING THE MONTH OF APRIL OF EVERY YEAR AS "CHILDHOOD
CANCER AWARENESS MONTH" AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Every child has the right to live in a community and a society that can offer him an environment conducive to the promotion of his health¹. Thus, the State shall ensure that every child has access to the best health care possible and to information essential to their health and well-being.

In the Philippines, about 3,500 Filipino children will develop cancer each year. This is equivalent to almost 10 children who will be diagnosed with cancer each day. However, only 1/3 will be diagnosed and treated in medical facilities. 2/3 of children with cancer are in the advanced stages at the time of diagnosis and abandonment of treatment is high at 80%. The survival rate is only about 10% to 20%, although multi-disciplinary management is available and could potentially cure 80% of cases. This is because childhood cancer in the Philippines is not detected early enough for cure to be possible.²

Public awareness is a useful tool for early diagnosis and effective treatment of childhood cancer. According to the Philippine Children's Medical Center (PCMC), the implementation of PCMC's My Child Matters program, which aims to create public awareness about the curability of childhood cancer and implement community mobilization campaigns, has resulted in the reduction of late diagnosis to 30%, decrease in treatment abandonment rate to 10%, and increase in survival rate to 78%.³

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


MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY
Senato

¹ Art. 3, par. 9 of Presidential Decree No. 603 or the Child and Youth Welfare Code

² Leccioner, Julius A., MD. The global improvement of childhood cancer care in the Philippines. Retrieved from: <http://www.cancercontrol.info/cc2015/the-global-improvement-of-childhood-cancer-care-in-the-philippines/>.


³ Ibid.

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3

4 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress*
5 *assembled:*
6

7 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* This Act shall be known as the "Childhood Cancer Awareness
8 Month Act."
9

10 SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* The State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-
11 building and shall promote and protect their physical well-being. In furtherance of this policy,
12 the State shall declare the month of April of every year as the awareness month for childhood
13 cancer.
14

15 SECTION 3. *Children's Cancer Awareness Month.* The month of April of every year shall be
16 known as "Childhood Cancer Awareness Month" throughout the Philippines.
17

18 SECTION 4. *Public Education and Awareness Program.* In line with the observance of the
19 month above indicated, a comprehensive public education and awareness program shall be
20 undertaken on childhood cancer. The program shall specifically discuss the kinds, causes,
21 symptoms, diagnoses, treatments and the methods of prevention of childhood cancer, with
22 emphasis on the need for early diagnosis.
23

24 SECTION 5. *Inter-agency and Multi-sectoral Effort.* The Department of Health (DOH), on
25 the part of the national government, and the cities and municipalities, on the part of the local
26 governments together with non-government and people's organizations, shall lead the
27 implementation of a comprehensive public education and awareness program on childhood
28 cancer through a collaborative interagency and multi-sectoral efforts at all levels.
29

30 SECTION 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* The DOH shall promulgate the
31 appropriate rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act
32 within ninety (90) days from its approval.
33

34 SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, decrees, executive orders or parts thereof
35 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified
36 accordingly.
37

1 SECTION 8. *Separability Clause*. If any provision of this Act is held invalid or
2 unconstitutional, other provisions not affected shall continue to be in full force and effect.

3
4 SECTION 9. *Effectivity*. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete
5 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of national circulation.

6
7 Approved,