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SENATE
S. No. 1795

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Introduced by **Senator Richard J. Gordon**

AN ACT APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF ONE BILLION ONE HUNDRED SIXTY ONE MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED TEN THOUSAND PESOS (P1,161,710,000) AS SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR FY 2018 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

On 04 April 2016, the Department of Health (DOH) commenced its school-based dengue mass immunization program using the vaccine Dengvaxia manufactured by Sanofi Pasteur, the largest company in the world devoted entirely to vaccines. Dengvaxia was mass vaccinated in Regions 3 (Central Luzon) and 4 (Southern Tagalog), and the National Capital Region, covering about 830,000 children aged nine (9) to twelve (12). Notably, Dengvaxia was vaccinated to children without prior screening for serostatus to determine whether they have been previously infected by dengue.

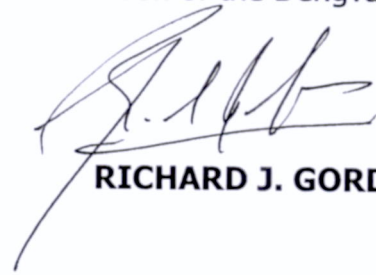
In July 2016, the World Health Organization released a paper stating, among others, that Dengvaxia "may be ineffective or may theoretically even increase the future risk of hospitalized or severe dengue illness in those who are seronegative at the time of first vaccination regardless of age."

The Blue Ribbon investigation into Dengvaxia fiasco uncovered possible adverse effects to persons vaccinated by the drug, undisclosed fully by Sanofi Aventis to the world, and by the previous administrators in the Department of Health to parents and children.

In 29 November 2017, Sanofi Pasteur released a statement saying that "[f]or those not previously infected by dengue virus, however, the analysis found that in the longer term, more cases of severe disease could occur following vaccination upon a subsequent dengue infection." This recent declaration by Sanofi Pasteur has caused panic and despair among parents and guardians of those children who have been vaccinated.

There have already been a number of reports of deaths, and also cases of severe dengue, in children who were previously vaccinated with Dengvaxia. There is an urgent need for the DOH to monitor the health, diagnose whenever the children fall sick or ill, provide treatment when required, and rehabilitate all those who were adversely affected by Dengvaxia.

The DOH would require budget for its Medical Assistance Program for Dengvaxia Patients, in particular, for the monitoring, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation of possible victims of adverse events following the immunization of the Dengvaxia vaccine.

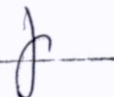


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APPROPRIATIONS FOR FY 2018 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

- 1 **SECTION 1. Appropriations.** – The sum of One Billion One Hundred Sixty One Million
2 Seven Hundred Ten Thousand Pesos (P1,161,710,000) is hereby appropriated out of
3 any funds in the National Treasury of the Philippines not otherwise appropriated, as
4 supplemental appropriations for the FY 2018 Budget.
- 5 **SECTION 2. Assistance to Dengvaxia Vaccinees.** – The sum of One Billion One
6 Hundred Sixty One Million Seven Hundred Ten Thousand Pesos (P1,161,710,000) is
7 hereby appropriated to fund the assistance to the Dengvaxia vaccinees, which amount
8 shall be used exclusively for the following activities and/or projects, namely: (a) Human
9 Resource for Health (HRH) Deployment; (b) Public Health Management; and (c)
10 Assistance to Indigent Patients either Confined or Out-Patient in Government Hospitals/
11 Specialty Hospitals / LGU Hospitals / Philippine General Hospital / West Visayas State
12 University Hospital.
- 13 **SECTION 3. Use and Release of Funds.** – The amount appropriated shall be
14 released by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) to the Department of
15 Health (DOH) in accordance with budgeting, accounting and auditing laws, rules and
16 regulations. The DOH shall issue the guidelines necessary for the proper
17 implementation of the foregoing activities and/or projects for the benefit of Dengvaxia
18 vaccinees.
- 19 **SECTION 4. Applicability of General and Special Provisions in the FY 2018**
20 **General Appropriations Act.** – The amounts herein appropriated shall be used for
21 the purposes indicated and subject to the relevant special and general provisions under
22 Republic Act 10964 or the FY 2018 GAA.

1 **SECTION 5. *Availability of Appropriations.*** – The appropriations authorized in this
2 Act shall be available for release and obligation for the purposes specified from the date
3 of the effectivity of this Act until December 31, 2018.

4 **SECTION 6. *Transparency Provisions.*** – The DOH shall ensure that the details of
5 activities and/or projects are included as part of the information posted on their
6 transparency seals required under Section 99 of the General Provisions under Republic
7 Act 10964 or the FY 2018 GAA.

8 **SECTION 7. *Separability Clause.*** – If, for any reason or reasons, any part or
9 provision of this Act shall be declared as unconstitutional or invalid, the other parts or
10 provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and
11 effect.

12 **SECTION 8. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect immediately upon its publication.

Approved,