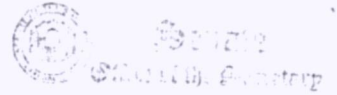


SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)

SENATE
S.B. NO. 2070



Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

18 OCT 10 (P5:10)

RECEIVED

AN ACT
INSTITUTING A NATIONAL HEALTH PROGRAM TO COMBAT SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS (SLE) DISEASE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE


Article II, Section 15 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides:

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

Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE) is a severe auto-immune connective tissue disease, in which antibodies are generated to a range of autoantigens. It triggers inflammation in the different tissues of the body particularly when the immune system attacks its own tissue. There is no cure for SLE however medical interventions and lifestyle changes can help control it.

The proposed bill seeks to promote awareness and information for the public regarding Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE) and to strengthen research and development in order to support and manage treatment of this disease. In addition the increased awareness will encourage understanding, early detection and intervention which are critical in alleviating symptoms.

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


MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY
Senator

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

1 Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Comprehensive
2 Lupus Prevention Act of 2018.”

3

4 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to protect and
5 promote the right to health of the people. As such, the State shall promote
6 awareness of and health programs focusing on Systemic Lupus Erythematosus
7 (SLE) in order to empower citizens suffering therefrom to become, to the best of
8 their potential, independent, self-reliant, and productive members of society.

9

10 Sec. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – For the purpose of this Act, “Systemic Lupus
11 Erythematosus” (SLE) or “Lupus” shall be construed to mean a chronic
12 autoimmune disease where the immune system attacks the body’s cells and
13 tissue, resulting in inflammation and tissue damage in different parts of the
14 body, but most often affecting the heart, joints, skin, lungs, blood vessels, liver,
15 kidneys, and nervous system, as diagnosed by a competent medical practitioner.

16

1 Sec. 4. *National Survey and Research.* – The National Institute of Health
2 (NIH) of the Department of Health (DOH) shall conduct an annual survey to
3 determine the extent and total incidence and prevalence of persons with
4 Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE) Disease in the country in order for the
5 government to provide the necessary health interventions to address the needs
6 faced by persons with lupus disease.

7
8 Sec. 5. *Integrated Approach to Research in Cooperation with Concerned*
9 *Research Agencies.* – Within six (6) months from the date of effectivity of this
10 Act, the DOH shall ensure that there is no conflict of interest between the NIH's
11 research agenda and that of pharmaceutical corporations or other government
12 agencies addressing the issue of lupus.

13
14 Sec. 6. *National Program for Lupus Prevention and Treatment.* – The DOH
15 shall implement a comprehensive and nationwide program on lupus prevention
16 and treatment with the following objectives:

- 17 a) to promote and provide mechanisms for early identification,
18 screening, and diagnosis of persons suffering from lupus;
19 b) to promote public awareness, education, and information on
20 issues concerning lupus;
21 c) to establish sustainable support networks for families of
22 persons diagnosed with lupus;
23 d) to provide referral services to patients for appropriate
24 educational and medical expertise and to identify appropriate
25 education or medical facilities suited to the needs of patients;
26 e) to undertake research and collaborate with other institutions
27 for the conduct of research activities pertaining to the disease;
28 f) to promote an advocacy discouraging bias against and stereo-
29 typing of afflicted persons;

- 1 g) to provide an avenue for the sharing of best practices on
2 issues relating to early detection, prevention, cure, treatment,
3 and rehabilitation of persons diagnosed with lupus; and
4 h) to network with other organizations, institutions, and
5 professionals working on public programs for persons
6 diagnosed with lupus.
7

8 *Sec. 7. Programs and Services for Lupus Prevention.* – The programs and
9 services that will be provided by the DOH shall include, but not be limited to, the
10 following:

- 11 a) Orientation and Counseling Services for families of newly
12 diagnosed persons;
13 b) Establishment of National and Regional Referral Services
14 where the DOH shall maintain an updated list of health care
15 institutions and practitioners concerned with the treatment of
16 lupus;
17 c) Public of a newsletter on current developments and research
18 on lupus, as well as other reading materials on the early
19 detection, prevention, and treatment of lupus, and best
20 practices for the care of diagnosed persons;
21 d) The conduct of continuing education and training programs on
22 the proper care of diagnosed persons; and
23 e) The establishment of a databank and an information and
24 monitoring system (IMS) on country-specific statistics
25 pertaining to lupus.
26

27 *Sec. 8. Lupus Early Detection and Screening Fees.* – The Philippine Health
28 Insurance Corporation (PHIC) shall include the cost of early detection and
29 screening programs for lupus as one of the available benefits to its members.

1 The early detection and screening test fees shall be applied to, among others,
2 testing cost, education, follow-up, and readable overhead expenses.

3
4 *Sec. 9. Donations and Grants.* – The DOH, NIH, and other departments of
5 the DOH that may thereafter be tasked with the implementation of this Act, shall
6 have the power to receive donations and grants from local and international
7 donor institutions, foundations, and foreign donor agencies, provided that
8 pertinent laws and rules on the receipt, accounting, and disbursement thereof
9 shall be complied with.

10
11 *Sec. 10. National Lupus Awareness Week.* – In order to grow national
12 interest and participation in the issues and concerns of lupus patients, the first
13 week of May shall annually be celebrated as "Lupus Awareness Week." This
14 week-long activity will be spearheaded by the DOH, in coordination with other
15 concerned agencies, institutions, and stakeholders.

16
17 *Sec. 11. Continuing Education and Training of Health Personnel and*
18 *Service Providers on Lupus Prevention and Treatment.* – All DOH staff and health
19 providers providing health services to persons diagnosed with lupus shall
20 undergo a mandatory continuing education and training program to ensure the
21 delivery of up-to-date and relevant services.

22
23 *Sec. 12. Protection Against Forcible Administration of Medical Treatment*
24 *or Enrollment in Programs.* – All persons administering treatment, counseling, or
25 medication as well as all persons involved in the implementation of the DOH
26 programs as mandated in this Act shall respect the right of each patient to
27 determine for himself or herself the medical treatment to be administered as well
28 as the programs wherein he or she will participate, if any.

1 Sec. 13. *Appropriation.* – The amount necessary to carry out the
2 provisions of this Act shall be included and incorporated in the annual general
3 appropriations of the DOH.

4
5 Sec. 14. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within six (6) months
6 from the date of effectivity of this Act, the DOH shall promulgate the necessary
7 implementing rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act.

8
9 Sec. 15. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and
10 regulations, or parts thereof not consistent with the provisions of this Act are
11 hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

12
13 Sec. 16. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part of this Act is held
14 unconstitutional or invalid, other provisions hereof which are not affected thereby
15 shall continue to be in full force and effect.

16
17 Sec. 17. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
18 after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general
19 circulation.

Approved,