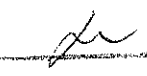


THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

NOV 18 2004

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

S.B. No. **1860**

Introduced by **SENATOR COMPAÑERA PIA S. CAYETANO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Recent studies have shown that Hepatitis B is endemic in the Philippines and now affects more than eight (8) million or around ten percent (10%) of Filipinos. Hepatitis B virus infection is the recognized cause of chronic hepatitis and cirrhosis, and is likewise said to be the cause of hepato-cellular carcinoma.

It is further established that Hepatitis B virus can be transmitted not only through contaminated blood or blood products, but also from an infected pregnant mother to her newborn, the probability of the latter in as high as 20 to 30 percent (20%-30%). Most Hepatitis B carriers are ignorant of their condition because symptoms are not manifest. Thus, the early prevention of the disease is still the best protection that may be given a child. Studies have shown that a routine Hepatitis B vaccination of all newborn, immediately within twelve (12) hours from birth, is the best opportunity to prevent unrecognized perinatal transmission of the virus and has been recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO).


On a personal note, I strongly advocate for the mandatory immunization against Hepatitis B for infants because my father, the late Senator Rene Compañero L. Cayetano, fought a long battle with liver cancer. It is with the hope of a possible measure to prevent the disease from claiming further lives that I urgently move for the passage of the bill. We need to act immediately to protect our future leaders and the future of our country.


COMPAÑERA PIA S. CAYETANO
Senator

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

NOV 18 1944

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

S.B. No. 1860

Introduced by **SENATOR COMPAÑERA PIA S. CAYETANO**

AN ACT
REQUIRING MANDATORY BASIC IMMUNIZATION SERVICES AGAINST
HEPATITIS B FOR INFANTS

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

SECTION 1. Title. - This Act shall be known as the "Basic Immunization Services for Infants Act."

SECTION 2. Coverage. - Basic immunization services shall cover (a) BCG Vaccination against tuberculosis, (b) Inoculation against diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis, (c) Oral poliomyelitis immunization, (d) Protection against measles, (e) Immunization against Hepatitis B, and (f) Immunization against rubella, and (g) such other basic immunization services for infants and children below eight (8) years of age, as may be determined by the Secretary of Health; *Provided*, That all infants born in a hospital or in any medical clinic shall be given immunization against Hepatitis B immediately within twelve (12) hours after birth, while those born in their houses should be brought to a hospital or any medical clinic so as to be immunized against Hepatitis B as soon as possible; *Provided further*, That health care practitioners who are administering prenatal care shall educate all pregnant mothers on the importance of giving their infants the basic immunization services.

SECTION 3. Appropriations. - The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be taken from the budget of the Department of Health, and shall be made available immediately upon enactment of this Act into law.

SECTION 4. Repealing Clause. - Republic Act No. 7846 and all other laws, executive orders, presidential issuances, rules and regulations or any part thereof which are inconsistent herewith, are hereby deemed repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 5. Effectivity. - The provisions of this Act shall take effect within fifteen days from its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,