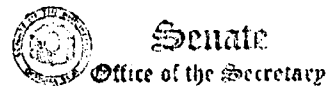


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



SENATE
S. No. 1481

20 MAY -4 P 3:29

Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

RECEIVED BY

AN ACT
TO ASSIST INDIGENT CANCER PATIENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES,
ESTABLISHING FOR THE PURPOSE A CANCER ASSISTANCE FUND AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES

Explanatory Note

Claiming thousands of lives each year, and amounting to several billions of pesos in healthcare and treatment cost, cancer has become a serious public health issue as well as an economic burden.

In the Philippines, cancer is the third leading cause of death as it afflicts 189 per 100,000 and kills four Filipinos every hour or 103 every day. The incidence and mortality rate of cancer in the Philippines has been increasing in the past three decades. This trend is expected to continue if organized and sustained specialized cancer is not initiated.

The cost of chemotherapy and radiation treatments for cancer patients may reach up to Php100,000 per session. Even examination by Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) is burdensome even to middle-income patients and often beyond the reach of the poor.

This is why cancer has gained a reputation as the disease for the rich even though it can afflict anybody regardless of economic status.

The Constitution provides for the right to health of the people. It is time for the less fortunate to get the opportunity to fight cancer despite lack of resources.

For this reason, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


GRACE POE



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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 "*Cancer Assistance*
2 *Act*".

3 Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is a declared policy of the State to protect
4 and promote the right to health of the people. For this purpose, the State shall
5 implement a system of providing premium care and assistance to indigent cancer
6 patients and their families.

7 Sec. 3. Assistance to Indigent Cancer Patients. - Every year, the State shall
8 automatically appropriate the amount of One Billion Pesos (Php1, 000,000,000.00)
9 to support the cancer medicine and treatment assistance program to be
10 administered by the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth). The
11 Program shall prioritize indigent and underprivileged cancer patient beneficiaries to
12 be identified by the PhilHealth in coordination with the Department of Social Welfare
13 and Development (DSWD) and the Department of Interior and Local Government
14 (DILG).

15 Sec. 4. Rules and Regulations. - The PhilHealth, in consultation with the
16 DSWD and DILG and the representatives from hospital association, medical

1 practitioners and civil society representing peasant and/or the marginalized sector
2 shall formulate relevant rules and regulations within six (6) months from the
3 approval of this Act.

4 Sec. 5. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following
5 its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two newspapers of general
6 circulation.

Approved,