

7 NOV -6 P 11:11

SENATE
S.B. 1815

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Introduced by Senator Villar

Explanatory Note

Per statistics, the Philippines has the highest incidence rate of breast cancer in Asia. It is considered to have the ninth highest incidence rate in the world today.

Breast cancer remains to be the biggest fear of women and men. As in other countries, breast cancer is the leading killer of women ages 35 to 54. And all women are at risk. Approximately, seventy percent (70 %) of breast cancer occurs in women with none of the known risk factors. On the other hand, out of the 100 people who will get breast cancer, one will be male.

Whilst it is a known fact that breast cancer is treatable but may not be curable, its early detection is the best cure for the illness. It is for this reason that this legislation is submitted and among its significant highlights:

1. It establishes a Center for Breast Cancer Control and Prevention and it shall be the institutional mechanism dedicated in the prevention, continuing research, control, advisory, funding modern and updated clinical studies, and assisting patients diagnosed with breast cancer and its treatment;
2. It shall be the at the public forefront of breast cancer awareness campaign together with various sectors including women's group, non-governmental organizations, foundations, peoples' association, local government units and communities and private sector partners;
3. It mandates the acquisition of facilities that may help patients including but not limited to mammography screening, clinical breast examinations, breast ultrasound and MRI, radiation therapy, chemotherapy and surgery.

Considering its urgency as breast cancer is an alarming health malaise, early recognition of this policy measure is earnestly sought.


MANNY VILLAR

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC
OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

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AN ACT
CREATING A CENTER FOR BREAST CANCER CONTROL AND
PREVENTION

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

Section 1. Declaration of Policy. The State hereby guarantees the delivery of basic health services to the citizens in honour of the people's fundamental right to health and instilling health consciousness among them.

To this end, a program that will raise awareness, support research, provide comprehensive assistance and beat breast cancer is ordained under this Act.

Section 2. Creation of the Center for Breast Cancer Control and Prevention. A Center for Breast Cancer Control and Prevention is hereby created. The Center shall be an institutional mechanism dedicated in the prevention, continuing research, control, advisory, funding modern and updated clinical studies, and assisting patients diagnosed with breast cancer and its treatment.

It shall be the at the public forefront of breast cancer awareness campaign together with various sectors including women's group, non-governmental organizations, foundations, peoples' association, local government units and communities and private sector partners.

The Center shall be an adjunct office in the Philippine General Hospital and shall maintain key centers in Visayas and Mindanao. The PGH and the key centers shall have facilities including but not limited to mammography screening, clinical breast examinations, breast ultrasound and MRI, radiation therapy, chemotherapy, advanced cancer detection technology, and surgery.

The Center shall be headed by an Executive Director. The administrative and research staff shall be detailed from the existing personnel of the Department of Health, the PGH, other government health institutions and hospitals without prejudice to the designation by the Center of such medical staff, professionals and members as it may deem necessary for the proper discharge of its functions and responsibilities.

Section 3. Cooperation and Support. The Center may, in the performance of its functions, request the cooperation, assistance and support of appropriate government agencies, institutions and hospitals and non-governmental organizations and private sector partners involved in early detection, control, treatment and prevention of breast cancer.

Section 4. Appropriations. The sum of one hundred million pesos (Php 100,000,000.00) is hereby authorized to be appropriated, out of any funds in the National Treasury not otherwise appropriated, to carry out the functions of the Center under this Act. Thereafter, the sum needed for the operation, maintenance, continuing studies, acquisition of facilities and equipment and those which may be given as financial assistance to patients shall be included as additional fund in the annual appropriation of the Philippine General Hospital.

Section 5. Repealing Clause. All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees, other issuances or parts thereof, inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 6. Separability Clause. If any part of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remaining parts not affected thereby shall continue to be valid and operational.

Section 7. Effectivity. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation, whichever comes earlier.

Approved,