

SENATE

Senate Bill No. 1870

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INTRODUCED BY SEN. MANNY VILLAR

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EXPLANATORY NOTE

Next to breast cancer, cervical cancer afflicts Filipino women the most. In fact, an estimated 7,277 new cases and 3,807 deaths due to cervical cancer occurred in the country last year.

Cervical cancer can now be prevented, said Dr. Efren Domingo, president of the Society of Gynecologic Oncologists of the Philippines. Dr. Domingo noted that the recent developments in cancer management and treatment found that in 99 percent of cases, cervical cancer is caused by the human papillomavirus (HPV), a common virus.

The problem, he said, is that most women do not bother to have themselves screened for cervical cancer. Generally, all women who have had sexual intercourse are at risk of cervix cancer. However, rare types of cervical cancer can occur even in women who never had any sexual intercourse in their life.

Through proper awareness and prevention campaign, the cases of cervical cancer in the country will be reduced. Hence, the immediate passage of this bill is sought.



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**CERVICAL CANCER AWARENESS AND PREVENTION CAMPAIGN ACT**

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

**SECTION 1.** Title- This Act shall be known and cited as the “**CERVICAL CANCER AWARENESS AND PREVENTION CAMPAIGN ACT**”

**SECTION 2.** The Department of Health shall:

- a. Create a public awareness campaign to educate parents, health care providers and women about the causes and risk factors associated with cervical cancer and its prevention;
- b. The public awareness campaign required by Subsection (a) shall include:
  - i. information about abstinence before and fidelity after marriage being the surest prevention of sexually transmitted diseases including the human papillomavirus; and
  - ii. a complete list of side effects and risks discovered during drug trials of any vaccine developed for the prevention of cervical cancer or human papillomavirus.
- c. The department shall urge all citizens to recognize “Cervical Cancer Awareness and Prevention Month” and shall hold programs and activities for the observance of the event.
- d. The Department shall likewise provide encouragement and assistance to those organizations that offer educational, advocacy and support services for those with cervical cancer.

**SECTION 3.** Implementing Rules and Regulations.- The Department of Health shall promulgate the appropriate rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act within sixty (60) days from its approval.

**SECTION 4.** Separability Clause.- If any provision or part thereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

**SECTION 5. Repealing Clause.-** Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the provision of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

**SECTION 6. Effectivity Clause.-** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.