

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

SENATE  
S. No. **1910**

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article 2, Section 15, provides that:

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

In the United States, the life expectancy gap between men and women has increased from one year in 1920 to almost six years in 2002. Here in the Philippines, in 2005, the Department of Health (DOH) places the life expectancy of males at 67.83 years while that of women at 73.08 years. According to a study conducted by Dr. Thomas Perls and Dr. Ruth Fretts of the Harvard Medical School, women around the world have a survival advantage over men - sometimes by as much as 10 years. Main reasons for this could be that women are 100% more likely than men to visit a doctor, have regular check-ups, and obtain preventive screening tests for serious diseases.

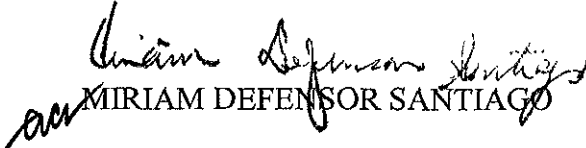
This may result in a health crisis affecting the health and well-being of men. While this may be a particular concern of men, it may also be a concern for women regarding their fathers, husbands, sons, and brothers. Men's health is a concern for employers who pay the costs of medical care, and lose productive employees. Men's health is also a concern of our national and local governments that absorb the enormous

costs of premature death and disability, including the costs of caring for dependents left behind.

Appropriate use of tests which are exclusive for men such as prostate specific antigen for prostate cancer, doppler for varicocele, and testicular ultrasound for testicular cancer, can result in the early detection of many problems and in increased survival rates.

Early detection of male health problems is vital as it can result in reducing rates of mortality for male-specific diseases, and improve men's health and their overall economic wellbeing. Thus, educating men, their families, and health care providers about this is imperative.

An Office of Men's Health is needed to coordinate the fragmented men's health awareness, prevention, and research efforts being conducted by the DOH and non-government organizations. This bill seeks to save the lives of men by establishing an Office of Men's Health within the DOH that will conduct further actions as may be needed to promote men's health.

  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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1 AN ACT  
2 TO SAVE THE LIVES OF MEN BY ESTABLISHING WITHIN THE  
3 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AN OFFICE OF MEN'S HEALTH

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

6 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Men’s Health Act of  
7 2007.”

8 SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to protect and  
9 promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.

10 SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act, the following terms  
11 shall mean:

12 (a) “Men’s health conditions” – shall refer to all diseases, disorders, and  
13 conditions -

14 (1) unique to, more serious, or more prevalent in men;

15 (2) for which the factors of medical risk or types of medical intervention  
16 are different for men, or for which it is unknown whether such factors or types are  
17 different for men; or

18 (3) with respect to which there has been insufficient clinical research  
19 involving men as subjects or insufficient clinical data on men.

20 (b) “Research on men’s health” – shall refer to research on men’s health  
21 conditions, including research on preventing such conditions.

22 (c) “DOH” – shall refer to the Department of Health.

23 (d) “Secretary” – shall refer to the Department of Health (DOH) Secretary.

1 (e) "Director" – shall refer to the Director of the Office of Men's Health.

2 (f) "Committee" – shall refer to the Advisory Committee on Men's Health.

3 SECTION 4. *Office of Men's Health.* – The Secretary shall establish within the  
4 DOH an office to be known as the Office of Men's Health which shall be headed by a  
5 Director to be appointed by the DOH. The Director shall have the following functions:

6 (a) coordinate and promote the status of men's health throughout the country;

7 (b) identify projects of research on men's health that should be conducted or  
8 supported by both the government and non-government agencies;

9 (c) promote coordination and collaboration among entities conducting research on  
10 men's health,

11 (d) recommend an agenda for conducting and supporting such research; and

12 (e) encourage the conduct of such research. .

13 SECTION 5. *Advisory Committee on Men's Health.* – In assisting the Director in  
14 carrying out his functions, the Secretary shall establish a Committee to be known as the  
15 Advisory Committee on Men's Health which shall have the following functions:

16 (a) Advise the Secretary, through the Director, on appropriate research activities  
17 to be undertaken by the Office with respect to the Research on men's health;

18 (b) Report to the Secretary, through the Director, on such research;

19 (c) Provide recommendations to the Secretary, through the Director, regarding the  
20 activities of the Office on Men's health; and

21 (d) Prepare a report regarding the activities of the Committee.

22 SECTION 6. *Composition.* – The Committee shall be composed of nine (9)  
23 members which shall include the following:

24 (a) Two (2) representatives from the DOH;

25 (b) Four (4) physicians, practitioners and other health personnel;

26 (c) Two (2) representatives from a non-government organization which conducts  
27 research on men's health; and

1 (d) One (1) representative from the general public.

2 SECTION 7. *Meetings.* – The Advisory Committee shall determine the number,  
3 time, and place and conduct of meetings, except that it shall hold at least one (1) public  
4 meeting each year at which the general public is given an opportunity to express views  
5 concerning the conduct of research on men’s health by the Office of Men’s Health.

6 SECTION 8. *Term.* – Members shall be appointed by the Secretary for a term of  
7 three (3) years. Of those first appointed, three (3) members shall serve for three (3) years,  
8 three (3) members for two years, and the last three members for one (1) year. Any  
9 vacancy in the membership of the Committee shall be filled in the same manner as the  
10 original appointments.

11 Any member of the Committee may be removed for cause in accordance with  
12 procedures established by the Committee.

13 SECTION 9. *Report.* – Not later than two (2) years after the date of the enactment  
14 of this Act, the Secretary, acting through the Director, shall submit to the Congress a  
15 report describing the activities conducted by the Office of Men’s Health.

16 SECTION 10. *Appropriation.* – To carry out the provisions of this Act, such  
17 amount as may be necessary is hereby authorized to be appropriated from the National  
18 Treasury. Thereafter, the amount necessary for the continuous operation of the Office of  
19 Men’s Health shall be included in the annual appropriation of the DOH.

20 SECTION 11. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part thereof, is held  
21 invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law of the provision not otherwise  
22 affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

23 SECTION 12. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance,  
24 executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to,  
25 or inconsistent with, the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended  
26 accordingly.

1           SECTION 13. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days  
2 after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,