

SENATE

S. NO. 371

7

Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV

Explanatory Note

Section 15 of Article II under the 1987 Constitution provides that the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them. However, reports on prostate cancer showed the opposite. The data from the World Health Organization showed that prostate cancer is the sixth most common form of malign tumours among men,¹ killing one almost every 19 minutes.² Moreover, it is one of the top five cancers among men in the Philippines.³

Cancer of the prostate does not show early symptoms. Even without symptoms, this form of cancer in its early stage may be detected during a medical examination. This is the reason why men, particularly those who are 40 years and older, should be educated on the importance of a regular checkup, including a digital (finger) rectal prostate examination once or twice a year, even those without symptoms, to catch prostate cancer before it spreads. If treated early, ten years after the treatment, 65 out of a hundred are still alive and well. In consonance with this, the Department of Health is hereby mandated to carry out the provisions of this bill.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



ANTONIO "SONNY" F. TRILLANES IV
Senator

¹ "Urine test for prostate cancer making progress," <http://www.breakthroughdigest.com/cancer-treatment/prostate-cancer/urine-test-for-prostate-cancer-making-progress/> (accessed 11 March 2009).

² Dr. Philip S. Chua, "Prostatic cancer," http://globalnation.inquirer.net/cebudailynews/opinion/view_article.php?article_id=110897 (accessed 12 March 2009).

³ *Ibid.*

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

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S. NO. 371

Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A PROGRAM FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION ON PROSTATE CANCER

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

1 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** – This Act may be cited as the “*Prostate Cancer Public*
2 *Awareness Act*”.

3
4 **SEC. 2. *Definition.*** – For purposes of this Act, the term “Director” means the Director of
5 the National Center for Disease Prevention and Control of the Department of Health.

6
7 **SEC. 3. *Establishment of Program for Public Education on Prostate Cancer.*** – The
8 Director shall carry out a program on prostate cancer. Through the program, he shall conduct or
9 support activities –

10 (a) To educate males who are forty (40) years of age or older on the need to periodically undergo
11 physical examinations for such cancer, including education on the frequency and type of such
12 examinations that are appropriate for various age groups of such men; and

13 (b) To educate males on the availability and appropriateness of procedures for detecting the
14 cancer in its early stages, including the procedure known as prostate ultrasound.

1 **SEC. 4. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or
2 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain
3 valid and subsisting.

4
5 **SEC. 5. *Repealing Clause.*** – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order,
6 letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the
7 provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

8
9 **SEC. 6. *Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
10 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,