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SENATE

S. No. 407

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Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

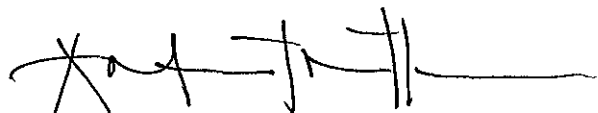
Based on the International Study of Asthma and Allergies in Childhood (ISAAC), a recently-published study on asthma prevalence in different countries, asthma affects twelve percent (12%) of the Philippine population, about one in ten Filipinos. According to the reports, prevalence of asthma, especially among children, is increasing.

This only shows that despite extensive knowledge on effective asthma management strategies, policy regarding the education, treatment, and management of asthma is still necessary to increase awareness of asthma as a chronic illness.

Early recognition of the signs and symptoms of asthma, proper diagnosis and treatment, and patient education and self-management, can be effective in the treatment and management of asthma. Educating asthma patients and their families about the disease is essential in the effective control of asthma. Indeed, this illness can be life-threatening if not properly managed.

This bill gives importance to patient and professional education, as well as effective management of asthma through a national program that can help raise awareness that asthma itself is a serious chronic disease.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly recommended.



**ANTONIO "SONNY" F. TRILLANES IV**  
Senator

10 JUL -6 1955

SENATE

S. No. 407

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Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV

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AN ACT  
CREATING A NATIONAL ASTHMA EDUCATION AND PREVENTION  
PROGRAM AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

*Be in 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 "*National Asthma*  
2 *Program Act*".

3  
4       **SEC. 2. *Definition of Terms.*** – As used in this Act, the following terms shall mean:

- 5       a) Department – refers to the Department of Health;
- 6       b) Director – refers to the Director of Center for Disease Control and Prevention;
- 7       c) elementary school – refers to public elementary schools;
- 8       d) program – refers to:
- 9               1) the National Asthma Education and Prevention Program;
- 10              2) the program discussing asthma's symptoms, and the environmental factors
- 11               (indoor and outdoor) that affect the disease;
- 12              3) the program that teach patients how to better manage asthma.
- 13       e) secondary school – refers to public secondary schools; and
- 14       f) Secretary -- refers to the Secretary of the Department of Health.
- 15

16       **SEC. 3. *National Asthma Education and Prevention Program*** – There shall be a  
17 national program under the Department, to be called the National Asthma Education and

1 Prevention Program, which shall take charge in educating the public, specifically the asthma  
2 patients and their families about their disease. This program shall be carried out primarily by  
3 the Philippine Heart Center, Lung Center of the Philippines and Philippine Children's  
4 Medical Center.

5

6 **SEC. 4. Objectives of the Program.** – The following shall be the objectives of the  
7 program:

- 8 a) to raise awareness among patients, health professionals, and the public that  
9 asthma is a serious chronic disease;
- 10 b) to ensure that symptoms of asthma are recognized by patients, families, and the  
11 public, and that appropriate diagnosis is made by health professionals; and
- 12 c) to ensure effective control of asthma by encouraging a partnership among  
13 patients, physicians, and other health professionals, using modern treatment and  
14 education programs.

15

16 **SEC. 5. Coordinating Committee.** – A coordinating committee shall be established  
17 for the Program. This committee shall be composed of the Secretary of the Department of  
18 Health, Executive Director of the Lung Center of the Philippines, Directors of Center for  
19 Disease Control and Prevention, Philippine Heart Center, and Philippine Children's Medical  
20 Center.

21 Such committee shall submit a report that shall:

- 22 a) contain a determination by the committee of the scope of the problem of asthma  
23 in the country;
- 24 b) identify all programs that carry out asthma-related activities; and
- 25 c) contain the recommendations of the committee for strengthening and better  
26 coordinating the asthma-related activities of the government.

1           **SEC. 6. Asthma-Related Activities of Centers for Disease-Control and Prevention. –**

2           a)    Activities to be Carried Out – The Secretary, acting through the Director, shall  
3           collaborate with the local government to expand the scope of:

4                   1)    activities that are carried out to determine the incidence and prevalence of  
5                   asthma ; and

6                   2)    activities that are carried out to prevent the health consequences of  
7                   asthma, including through the provision of information and education to  
8                   the public regarding asthma, which may include the use of public service  
9                   announcements through the media and such other means as such Director  
10                  determines to be appropriate.

11          b)    Compilation of Data – The Secretary, acting through the Director and in  
12          consultation with the National Asthma Education Prevention Program  
13          Coordinating Committee, shall:

14                  1)    conduct local asthma surveillance activities to collect data on the  
15                  prevalence and severity of asthma and the quality of asthma management,  
16                  including--

17                          i)    surveys to collect sample household data on the local burden of  
18                          asthma ; and

19                          ii)   health care facility specific surveillance to collect asthma data on  
20                          the prevalence and severity of asthma, and on the quality of  
21                          asthma care; and

22                  2)    compile and annually publish data on:

23                          i)    the prevalence of children suffering from asthma in the country;  
24                          and

25                          ii)   the childhood mortality rate associated with asthma in the country.

1           **SEC. 7. Grants for Community Outreach on Asthma Information, Education, and**  
2 **Services. –**

3           a) Grants to non-profit private entities - The Secretary may make grants to non-  
4 profit private entities for projects to carry out, in communities identified by  
5 entities applying for the grants, outreach activities to provide for residents of the  
6 communities the following:

- 7           1) information and education on asthma; and  
8           2) referrals to health programs of public and non-profit private entities  
9 that provide asthma-related services, including such services for low-  
10 income individuals. The grant may be expended to make arrangements  
11 to coordinate the activities of such entities in order to establish and  
12 operate networks or consortia regarding such referrals.

13          b) Preferences in Making Grants- In making grants under subsection (a) of this  
14 Section, the Secretary shall give preference to applicants that will carry out  
15 projects under such subsection in communities that are disproportionately  
16 affected by asthma or underserved with respect to the activities described in  
17 such subsection and in which a significant number of low-income individuals  
18 reside.

19          c) Evaluations – The applicant for the grant shall agree to provide for evaluation of  
20 the projects carried out under this Section to determine the extent to which the  
21 projects have been effective in carrying out the activities referred to in such  
22 subsection.

23  
24           **SEC. 8. Action Plans Regarding Asthma** - The Secretary shall carry out a program to  
25 encourage the implementation of plans to carry out activities to assist children with respect  
26 to asthma in accordance with guidelines of the Philippine Heart Center, Lung Center of the  
27 Philippines and Philippine Children's Medical Center.

1           **SEC. 9. Action Plans of School Districts Regarding Asthma. –**

2           a)     In General-

3                 1)     School-Based Asthma Activities- The Secretary, in consultation with the  
4                         Director, may make grants to school districts for programs to carry out  
5                         at elementary and secondary schools specified in asthma-related  
6                         activities for children who attend such schools.

7                 2)     Eligible Schools- The elementary and secondary schools referred to in  
8                         this Section are such schools that are located in communities with a  
9                         significant number of low-income or underserved individuals, as  
10                         defined by the Secretary.

11           b)     Development of Programs- Programs under subsection (a) shall include grants  
12                         under which school districts and public health officials collaborate to develop  
13                         programs to improve the management of asthma in school settings.

14           c)     Certain Guidelines- Programs under this Section shall be carried out in  
15                         accordance with applicable guidelines or other recommendations of the  
16                         National Institutes of Health, including the Philippine Heart Center, Lung  
17                         Center of the Philippines and Philippine Children's Medical Center  
18                         and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

19           d)     Certain Activities- Activities that may be carried out in programs under this  
20                         Section include the following:

21                         1)     Identifying and working directly with local hospitals, community  
22                                 clinics, advocacy organizations, parent-teacher associations, and  
23                                 asthma coalitions.

24                         2)     Identifying asthmatic children and training them and their families  
25                                 in asthma self-management.

26                         3)     Purchasing asthma equipment.

27                         4)     Hiring school nurses.

- 1                   5) Training teachers, nurses, coaches, and other school personnel in
- 2                   asthma-symptom recognition and emergency responses.
- 3                   6) Simplifying procedures to improve students' safe access to their
- 4                   asthma medications.
- 5                   7) Such other asthma-related activities as the Secretary determines to
- 6                   be appropriate.

7

8           **SEC. 10. *Hospitals and Managed Care Plans.* --**

- 9           a) hospitals should be encouraged to offer asthma-related education and training
- 10           to asthma patients and their families upon discharge from the hospital of such
- 11           patients;
- 12           b) hospitals should, with respect to information on asthma, establish telephone
- 13           services for patients and communicate with providers of primary health
- 14           services; and
- 15           c) managed care organizations should:
  - 16                   1) be encouraged to disseminate to health care providers asthma
  - 17                   clinical practice guidelines developed or endorsed by the
  - 18                   Department;
  - 19                   2) collect and maintain asthma data; and
  - 20                   3) offer asthma-related education and training to asthma patients and
  - 21                   their families.

22

23           **SEC. 11. *Implementation of the Act.* -- All government asthma-related activities**  
24 should:

- 25           a) promote the guidelines and other recommendations of the Department on
- 26           asthma diagnosis and management; and

1           b)     be designed in consultation with national and local organizations representing  
2                   the medical, educational, and environmental communities, as well as  
3                   advocates that represent those affected by asthma.

4  
5           **SEC. 12. *Appropriation.*** - The funds needed for this purpose shall be taken from the  
6     appropriations of the Department of Health. Thereafter, such amount necessary for the  
7     implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

8  
9           **SEC. 13. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act shall at any time be  
10    found to be unconstitutional or invalid, the remainder thereof not affected by such declaration  
11    shall remain in full force and effect.

12  
13          **SEC. 14. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, rules or regulations inconsistent with  
14    the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

15  
16          **SEC. 15. *Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days  
17    following its complete publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,