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SENATE

Senate Bill No. 630

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INTRODUCED BY SEN. JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Despite breakthroughs in medical science and technology, tuberculosis continues to be one of the greatest infectious causes of death for adults worldwide. In fact, recent studies conducted by the World Health Organization reveals that one person every 15 seconds dies of tuberculosis, and that an estimated 8,000,000 individuals develop active tuberculosis each year.

In the Philippines, tuberculosis continues to afflict thousands of Filipinos. It is has been spreading fast due to inadequate treatment, lack of coordination among public and private entitles, and the absence of a national plan for tuberculosis prevention, treatment and control as a result of the devolution of health services to local government units.

According to the statistics of the Department of Health, there are at least 129,000 documented tuberculosis cases in the country. In the NCR alone, 20,000 people are reportedly needing immediate medical attention, and at least 2,000 are already receiving medical treatment.

As the number is expected to significantly increase in the coming years, the department is currently looking for adequate resources to combat the physical, social, and economic devastation inflicted by this disease.

Tuberculosis should be preventable and treatable. Without government's support for education and prevention, however, this dreaded disease will continue to be a virtual death sentence in the country.

Hence, this bill seeks to establish a national plan for tuberculosis prevention, treatment and control by increasing investment in tuberculosis control upon the government, non-governmental organizations, and other concerned sectors to band together in putting an end to this nationwide epidemic


JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA
Senator

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL PLAN FOR TUBERCULOSIS PREVENTION,
TREATMENT AND CONTROL AND PROVIDING RELIABLE DRUGS SUPPLY
AND FREE LABORATORY MONITORING SERVICE TO TB PATIENTS

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

SECTION 1. Title. - This Act shall be known as the "**Comprehensive Tuberculosis Elimination Act**".

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is hereby declared to be a policy of the State to support and expand efforts to eliminate tuberculosis in the country by increasing investment in tuberculosis control programs and calling upon the government, non-governmental organizations and other concerned sectors to commit to putting an end to the nationwide TB epidemic.

SEC 3. National Plan for Tuberculosis Prevention, Treatment and Control. - The Secretary of Health (hereinafter known as "Secretary") shall, in consultation with appropriate public and private entities, develop and implement a national plan to eliminate tuberculosis by considering the recommendations of said institutions and entities regarding the elimination of tuberculosis, addressing the development and application of new technologies, tying up with international organizations, concerned with tuberculosis control for possible funding and assistance and reviewing the extent to which progress has been made toward eliminating tuberculosis.

SEC. 4. Research, Demonstration Projects, Education and Training. - With respect to the prevention, control, and elimination of tuberculosis, the Secretary shall, directly or through grants to public or non-profit private entities, carry out the following:

1. Research, with priority given to research concerning -
 - (a) diagnosis and treatment of latent infection of tuberculosis;
 - (b) strains of tuberculosis resistant to drugs;
 - (c) cases of tuberculosis that affect certain populations; and
 - (d) clinical trials, including a tuberculosis trials consortium

2. Demonstration projects, including for the development of regional capabilities for the prevention, control, and elimination of tuberculosis.
3. *Public information and education programs.*
4. Education, training and clinical skills improvement activities for health professionals;
5. Support of model centers to carry out activities under paragraphs (2) through (4);
6. Collaboration with international organizations and foreign countries in carrying out such activities;
7. Enhancement of basic and clinical research on tuberculosis; and
8. Research on the relationship between such disease and the HIV.

SEC. 5. - *Establishment of Regional Centers.* - The Secretary shall establish regional centers for tuberculosis control and treatment, which shall be tasked to:

- (1) Provide free laboratory monitoring of tuberculosis cases in the country;
- (2) Provide reliable drugs supply to patients for free by making sure that local health centers, through coordination with local government units concerned, have in their stock sufficient medicines for the communities they serve.
- (3) Undertake public information and education programs; and
- (4) Educate and train the public on basic ways and means to combat spread of tuberculosis.

SEC. 6. *Education Programs.* - The Secretary, in coordination with the Commission on Higher Education, shall encourage faculty of schools of medicine, nursing or osteopathic medicine to intensify their program for information and education programs, including the development of curricula, to significantly increase the opportunities for students and for practicing providers to learn the principles and practices of preventing, managing, and controlling tuberculosis.

SEC 7. *Inclusion in the Curriculum-* The Secretary in coordination with the Secretary of the Department of Education shall work for the inclusion of modules on the principles and practices of preventing, managing and controlling tuberculosis in the health curriculum of every public elementary and high school.

SEC. 8. *Media Campaign.* - The Secretary, in coordination with the Philippine Information Agency, shall encourage local media outlets, through a memorandum of agreement, to launch a full-blast media campaign anent tuberculosis control, treatment and management, which shall be subject of print, television and radio broadcast and coverage.

SEC. 9. *Report* - The Secretary shall biennially prepare and submit to the Committee on Health of the Senate and of the House of Representatives, a report on the activities carried out under this Act.

SEC. 10. Rules and Regulations - The Secretary shall formulate rules and regulations in order to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 11. Authorization of Appropriations. - There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 12. Separability Clause. - If any provision or part hereof, is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law of the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SEC. 13. 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.

SEC. 14. Effectivity Clause. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,