



the improvement of the health care delivery system to include the alleviation of the exodus of the doctors to foreign lands.

Further, this bill will rid the medical profession of so called misfits found to be negligent in their practice. The negligent acts of doctors led to a spate of incidents wherein patients either died, were maimed, scarred or suffered physical injuries.

Under present laws, a patient has three options to remedy or punish such negligent acts. One is the filing of a criminal action under the Revised Penal Code under Article 365 (reckless imprudence). The second is the filing of a case for the recovery of damages, and the third is the filing of a case before the Professional Regulations Commission for the revocation of the license of the doctor.

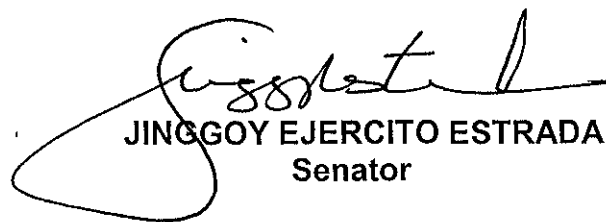
Patients might find the current options not suitable for his need because of:

- a) Court or administrative actions are time consuming as the courts and the PRC are clogged with many cases.
- b) Filing of such actions is financially burdensome on the patient.
- c) Court or administrative actions are mired in technicalities especially those concerning evidence, the presentation and weighing of which must adhere to the strict technical rules of procedures and evidence.

This Bill will provide a patient with a fourth option which is to file a case before an integrated professional medical organization. An aggrieved patient may now seek for the revocation of membership of the doctor from the integrated professional medical organization. The threat of revocation will carry a lot of weight since the livelihood of the doctors depends on his continued membership in the organization.

This bill seeks to accredit and acknowledge the Philippine Medical Association as the integrated professional medical organization. If the bill pass, the medical profession, just like the legal profession, shall be integrated into one accredited organization. Since the PMA is already in existence, the government will not be spending a single centavo. **It shall serve as an extension of the government in regulating the medical profession, maintaining the high standard, ethical conduct of the medical professionals and help in the continued delivery of quality health care.**

Early approval of this bill is earnestly recommended.



JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA  
Senator



- b) conviction by a court of competent jurisdiction of any criminal offense involving moral turpitude
- c) immoral or dishonorable conduct;
- d) insanity;
- e) fraud in the acquisition of the certificate of registration, and professional license or renewal thereof;
- f) addiction to alcoholic beverages or to any habit forming drug rendering him or her incompetent to practice his or her profession;
- g) false or extravagant or unethical advertisement;
- h) performing or aiding in any criminal abortion;
- i) knowingly issuing any false medical certificate;
- j) issuing any statement or spreading any news or rumor which is derogatory to the character and reputation of another physician without justifiable motive;
- k) aiding or acting as a dummy of unqualified or unregistered person to practice medicine; and
- l) violation of the Code of the PMA

**SEC. 8. Penalties** – The Philippine Medical Association may impose penalties of reprimand, suspension or expulsion. All cases filed or pending under this act shall not be discussed or taken in any forum until after the same shall have been decided with finality.

**SEC. 9. Implementing Rules** – The Philippine Medical Association shall promulgate the implementing rules and guidelines within 60 days after the enactment of this Act.

**SEC. 10. Separability Clause** – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, other provisions not affected herein shall remain in full force and effect.

**SEC. 11. Repealing Clause** – All laws, decrees, order, rule and regulations that are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed and/or modified accordingly.

**SEC. 12. Effectivity** – This act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of national circulation, which ever is earlier.

*Approved,*