

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

19 JUL 13 1900

S E N A T E
S.B. No. 1390

Introduced by Senator Loren Legarda

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Infectious diseases have been prevented dramatically with the advent of immunization. Mass immunizations have made a significant bearing in preventive medicine all over the world. These programs have had a major impact on the reduction of diphtheria and tetanus cases in most of the industrialized world. Gone were the days when communicable diseases were the main cause of infant and child mortality.

According to the World Health Organization, vaccines — which protect against disease by inducing immunity — are widely and routinely administered around the world based on the common-sense principle that it is better to keep people from falling ill than to treat them once they are ill. Immunization averted about two million deaths in 2002. In addition, contagion is reduced, strain on health-care systems is eased, and money is frequently saved that can be used for other health services.

In the Philippines, the government was able to promote immunizations and vitamin supplementation since the early 1990s. However, many developing countries (the Philippines included) have difficulties affording immunizations. The gap is growing between children in developing countries and those living in the industrialized world who have life-saving vaccines readily available.

This bill proposes to establish a comprehensive vaccination program that will provide free vaccination services to infants and children, through government hospitals, satellite offices, accredited government clinics and other medical institutions. This program shall be administered by the Department of Health.

Immunization goes beyond simply protecting the individual. More importantly, it also aims to improve the health of entire communities by limiting the spread of infectious disease among children and adults. Upon these considerations, the prompt passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


LOREN LEGARDA
Senator

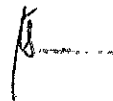
FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
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OFFICE OF THE CLERK

10 JUL 13 11:00

SENATE
S.B. No. 1390

RECEIVED BY



Introduced by Senator Loren Legarda

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A COMPREHENSIVE VACCINATION AND
IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM FOR FILIPINO INFANTS AND
CHILDREN, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSE

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

1 **SECTION 1. Title.** This Act shall be known as the "Free Vaccination and
2 **Immunization Act of 2010."**

3
4 **Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy.** - The right to health is a fundamental guarantee
5 enshrined in the Constitution. It is the policy of the State to instill health
6 consciousness among the people and to protect and promote their right to accessible
7 and quality health services.

8
9 Recognizing that vaccinations and immunizations for children have become
10 expensive and barely accessible for poor families, it is hereby likewise declared the
11 policy of the State that a comprehensive vaccination and immunization program be
12 made available to the public for free and its administration adopted as a program of
13 social justice.

14
15 **Sec. 3. Components.** - The Department of Health, through all government
16 hospitals, its satellite offices, accredited government clinics and other medical
17 institutions, shall provide for free to infants and children vaccination and
18 immunization services for the following diseases:

- 19 a. Hepatitis B;
20 b. DPT - diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough);
21 c. Influenza type B;

- 1 d. Polio (Salk injected);
- 2 e. Rotavirus (diarrhea and gastroenteritis)
- 3 f. Measles, Mumps, Rubella (German measles);
- 4 g. Varicella (chicken pox)

5 *Provided*, That exemptions may be chosen by parents on account of religious belief
6 that prohibits vaccinations and immunizations, or for medical reasons as certified by
7 a licensed medical practitioner, or for any other valid reason that may be advanced
8 by the parents of the infant or child, as necessary: *Provided, further*, That a certain day
9 of the week must be devoted for immunization and vaccination in all local
10 government unit health centers.

11
12 **SEC. 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - The Department of Health, in
13 consultation with the national association of pediatrics and recognized experts from
14 the private sector, and non-governmental organizations and peoples' organizations
15 and academe on child health and care, shall issue the relevant rules and regulations
16 to implement the provisions of this Act.

17
18 **SEC. 5. *Fund.*** - The amount of One Billion Pesos (P1,000,000,000.00) annually
19 to implement the provisions of this Act covering the comprehensive free
20 immunization and vaccination of children shall be included and incorporated in the
21 budget of the Department of Health in the General Appropriations Act. One percent
22 (1%) of all earnings made by government-owned and controlled corporations shall
23 be collected and form part of the fund that may be used for this purpose.

24
25 **SEC. 6. *Separability Clause.*** - If for any reason, any provision of this Act is
26 declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions not affected thereby
27 shall continue to be in full force and effect.

28
29 **SEC. 7. *Repealing Clause.*** - All executive issuances, rules and regulations or
30 parts thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby
31 repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

32
33 **SEC. 8. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15 days) after its
34 complete publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

35
36 Approved,