

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 3079



Introduced by: **REPRESENTATIVE IRENE GAY F. SAULOG**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

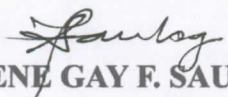
In 2012, the World Health Organization established the last week of April as World Immunization Week. 180 countries supported this move by conducting activities and events that promote vaccination. This annual observance aims to highlight the importance of vaccines as a longstanding important health intervention. It aims to present the simple truth that vaccines work.

The National Demographic and Health Survey of 2017 reported that basic vaccine coverage in the Philippines was a meager 70% in 2017. The 2008 figure was also low – only 80%. This is simply too low to help create herd immunity that will ultimately protect the rest of the population against certain diseases. This sad reality was compounded by the 2017 issue involving the Dengvaxia vaccine and the 2019 measles outbreak.

These are compelling reasons why there must be an annual observance of National Immunization Week in the Philippines. This observance would accomplish many objectives. It would create awareness regarding the immense benefits of vaccination. This information drive would help dispel the myths and misconceptions regarding vaccines. During the National Immunization Week, there would also be a concerted effort from the concerned government agencies to improve the vaccine coverage in the country.

It is hoped that the regular holding of the National Immunization Week would serve as a proactive step in preventing health problems like the recent measles outbreak in the country. We should strive to regularly maintain a very high, if not full vaccine coverage in the country. Deaths from vaccine-preventable diseases should be a thing of the past.

Making vaccines readily available to the Filipinos, especially to those who cannot afford it, is one effective way of uplifting the lives of the marginalized. It will protect the poor from burdensome healthcare costs which could have been prevented by getting a vaccine. Immunization will improve their chances at having a healthy life and a more secure future.


IRENE GAY F. SAULOG
Kalinga Party-list

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

3079

House Bill No. _____

Introduced by: **REPRESENTATIVE IRENE GAY F. SAULOG**

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE LAST WEEK OF APRIL AS THE NATIONAL IMMUNIZATION
WEEK

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

SECTION 1. The last week of April is hereby declared as National Immunization Week.

SEC. 2. The Secretary of Health, in coordination with the Secretary of Interior and Local Government shall promulgate rules and regulations as may be necessary for the proper implementation of this Act within sixty (60) days from approval thereof.

SEC. 3. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after the completion of its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,