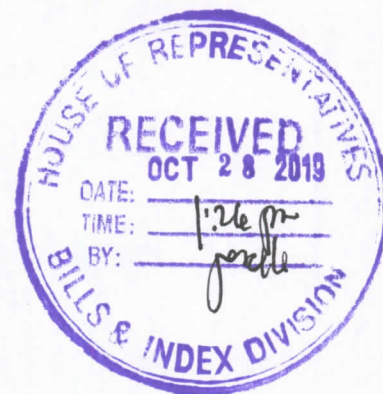


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



House Bill No. 5243

Introduced by REPRESENTATIVE ERIC L. OLIVAREZ

EXPLANATORY NOTE

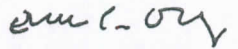
One of the alarming statistics that our country has is its doctor to patient ration which is 1:33,000. The very wide disparity between number of doctors and patients is very alarming considering that the health care system plays a very vital role in our country. Health care is a universal need that all citizens avail of. No matter the age, the social class, the gender, health care is availed by all.

It is even quite unimaginable how the situation is in rural areas. Given that the lack of resources, funds and doctors in their areas those in the rural areas have it much more difficult than those in the urban areas. Residents in the rural areas who find themselves in this alarming situation must be given a way out. This problem, the doctor-patient ration that is, must be found a solution in order to constrict its wide disparity.

This Bill intends to afford a solution in the current crisis that the country is in. In order to strengthen the manpower of health professionals, this Bill shall provide a scholarship program to one resident per town in the municipalities in the country. Thereafter, said scholars, upon obtaining their licenses to practice medicine, are mandated to provide medical service in their respective towns. Through this Bill, students who aspire to be doctors but do not have

enough financial means to pursue a degree in medicine are given a chance to pursue their dreams. Not only does this Bill help the residents in their individual capacities but it also provides additional manpower to all towns as scholars in this proposed program are mandated to serve in their respective towns. Eventually, this program is expected to magnetize other medical professionals into serving in rural areas thereby bridging the extensive gap between doctors and patients.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this Bill is earnestly sought.


ERIC OLIVAREZ

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
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House Bill No. 5243

Introduced by REPRESENTATIVE ERIC L. OLIVAREZ

**AN ACT PROVIDING MEDICAL SCHOLARSHIPS TO
QUALIFIED STUDENTS IN ALL MUNICIPALITIES,
ESTABLISHING FOR THIS PURPOSE THE ONE TOWN:
ONE DOCTOR SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. Short Title - This Act shall be known as the "The
One Town: One Doctor Act."

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy - It is hereby declared
policy of the State to provide measures in response to the growing
imbalance of the doctor-patient ratio in our country. At the same
time, it is also the policy of the state to contribute in the provision of
priority measures that can help reduce social and economic
inequalities.

For this purpose, the government shall institutionalize
scholarship programs to deserving and qualified individuals in each
of the municipalities of the country. Through this, these scholars will
be given the opportunity to pursue a degree in medicine and

thereafter extend and apply their honed skills in their own municipalities by integrating them into the public health systems through policies and programs initiated by the government.

SECTION 3. One Town: One Doctor Scholarship Program –

It shall be the duty of the Department of Health to establish a One Town: One Doctor Scholarship Program that will grant to qualified Filipinos who wish to pursue a degree in Doctor of Medicine scholarship and financial to aid them in their pursuit. The scholarship shall cover, among others, tuition fee, miscellaneous fees, laboratory fees, required textbooks, school supplies and equipment needed for the degree, uniforms, traveling expenses, subsistence, and living allowances: *Provided*, that the program will be provided to one student from each of the municipalities who is both interested and qualified to avail of the program: *Provided further*, that should none of the residents of the municipality avail or qualify in the program, the allotted slot may be assumed by a scholar from another town in the same province. *Provided, finally*, that the scholar who assumes the slot of another municipality shall render service in the municipality where the slot was assumed.

SECTION 4 Qualifications of Candidates.- All qualified scholars shall possess the following qualifications:

- a) Must be a bona fide resident of the municipality where the scholar filed an application for the program; with the exception to those who shall assume the slots of municipalities where no resident qualified for the program;
- b) Must belong to the top thirty per centum (30%) of their respective graduating classes and must be completing or already completed any of the undergraduate prerequisite courses for a degree in medicine;

- c) Must have a family or personal income which is insufficient to sustain their education in the degree in medicine;
- d) The University concerned shall have the discretion to provide for additional qualifications it deems necessary for the admission to the program.

SECTION 5. *Conditions of the Scholarship.* – In order for the qualified scholar to be able to obtain and maintain the scholarship grant, the following conditions must be met:

- a) The scholar must pass the admission examinations and related requirements of the medical school chosen;
- b) The scholar shall carry the full load of subjects prescribed per semester by the medical school, and shall not, under any circumstances, drop a course which will result in under-loading;
- c) The scholar may be allowed, for valid reasons, to defer availing of the scholarship and file a leave of absence for a period not exceeding one (1) school year; and
- d) The scholar shall receive and continue to enjoy the benefits of the scholarship until the completion of the course.

SECTION 6. *Public Health Service System.* – The scholar shall be integrated into the public health and medical service system as a medical doctor, with the appropriate rank and salary upon passing the medical board examination. The service integration to the public service will last for a period of at least four (4) years upon graduation: *Provided*, that the scholar shall undertake post graduate internship in a public health or medical institution and such internship with salaries allocated shall be

part of the mandatory service and integration into the public health and medical service system. *Provided, further*, that upon graduation, the scholar shall be deployed in the scholar's hometown to achieve the program's goal of having at least one doctor per municipality: *Provided, finally*, that the scholar who assumed the slot of another municipality where no resident qualified shall be deployed to the same municipality where the slot was assumed.

SECTION 7. *Information Dissemination.* – The Department of Health shall conduct regular information dissemination and recruitment with regard to the One Town: One Doctor Scholarship Program to ensure the continuous supply of medical scholars to all municipalities in the country.

SECTION 8. *Appropriations.* – The amounts necessary to effectively carry out the initial implementation of this Act shall be obtained from the current budget of the Department of Health. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the succeeding General Appropriations Act

SECTION 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations* – Within sixty (60) days from the promulgation of this Act, the implementing rules and regulations for the proper implementation of its provisions shall be formulated by the appropriate government office or agency in coordination with all the stakeholders and covered establishments and institutions.

SECTION 10. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or otherwise invalid, the validity of the other provisions shall not be affected thereby.

SECTION 11. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION. 12. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,