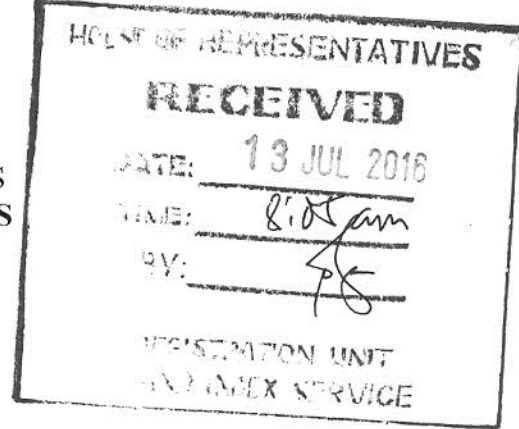


REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1505



---

Introduced by **MAGDALO Party-List Representative**  
**HON. GARY C. ALEJANO**

---

**Explanatory Note**

Many of our countrymen die not because sickness is incurable per se, but because they do not have the capacity to avail necessary medication and proper medical attention to restore their health. This is usually attributed to high-priced medicines and hospitalization, and poverty in general. Specifically, the costs of medicine have been exorbitant, making it impossible for many underprivileged Filipinos to afford.

The government should not remain indifferent and should bear the responsibility of addressing this given situation. As stated in Article II, Section 15 of the 1897 Constitution, "The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them." Thus, direct support from the government could be done to help and ease the burden of our citizens who suffer sickness, and on top of that, poverty.

This measure seeks to ensure that free basic medicine is available and accessible to meet the needs of marginalized sectors such as the poor, sick, disabled, elderly, children and women. It is proposed that a free basic medicine assistance program be implemented in all government hospitals, local health units and barangay health centers nationwide. This intends to address the inaccessibility of medicines among the impoverished populace, most especially those living in far-flung areas.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this measure is earnestly sought.

  
HON. GARY C. ALEJANO

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1505

---

Introduced by MAGDALO Party-List Representative  
HON. GARY C. ALEJANO

---

AN ACT  
ESTABLISHING A FREE BASIC MEDICINE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN ALL  
GOVERNMENT HEALTH FACILITIES NATIONWIDE AND APPROPRIATING  
FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1           **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** - This Act shall be known as "*The Free Basic*  
2     *Medicine Assistance Act*".

3

4           **Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** - It is hereby declared the policy of the  
5     State to protect and promote the right to health and well-being of every Filipino  
6     and to adopt a system of implementing the delivery of free basic medicines to  
7     those who have less in life in all health facilities in the country, giving priority to  
8     the underprivileged, ailing, malnourished, elderly, women, children, and the  
9     poorest of the poor.

10

11           **Sec.3. *Objectives.***- This Act pursues the following objectives:

12           (a) To promote optimal health and well-being of every Filipino by  
13     improved access to medicines; and

14           (b) To address the health need of the marginalized sectors such as the poor,  
15     malnourished, elderly, women, children and the disabled through the  
16     establishments of a Free Basic Medicine Assistance Program in all government  
17     health facilities nationwide.

18

19           **Sec.4. *Establishment of Free Basic Medicine Assistance Program.***-

20     There shall be established a Free Basic Medicine Assistance Program, hereinafter

1 referred to as the “ Libreng Gamot Program”, to be administered by the  
2 Department of Health (DOH) through government district hospitals, local health  
3 units and barangay health centers in all cities and municipalities, in coordination  
4 with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)

5  
6 **Sec.5. Eligible Beneficiaries.-** The Libreng Gamot Program shall be  
7 restricted to qualified poor recipients as certified by the barangay and the DSWD  
8 officials.

9  
10 **Sec.6 Availment of Free Basic Medicine.** – Free basic medicines shall be  
11 made available in all government district hospitals, local health units and barangay  
12 health centers. These health facilities shall account for all the medicines released  
13 to qualified beneficiaries through the submission of quarterly reports to the DOH.

14  
15 **Sec.7. Appropriations.** – The amount needed for the initial implementation  
16 of this Act shall be charged against the appropriations of the DOH. Thereafter,  
17 such sums as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall  
18 be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

19  
20 **Sec.8. Rules and Regulations.-** The DOH, in coordination with the DSWD  
21 and in consultation with the Philippine Medical Association (PMA), shall  
22 promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to effectively hereof.

23  
24 **Sec.9. Separability Clause.-** If any part or provisions of this Act is  
25 declared unconstitutional or invalid, other parts or provisions hereof which are not  
26 affected shall continue to be in full force and effect

27  
28 **Sec.10. Repealing Clause.-** All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and  
29 regulations and other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of  
30 this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

31  
32 **Sec.11. Effectivity.-** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
33 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,