



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

Eighteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5232



Introduced by Representative Florencio Gabriel "Bem" G. Noel

EXPLANATORY NOTE


It is the duty of the state that dental health must be made readily available, most especially in the rural areas where most citizens are not given the proper dental care due to either inaccessibility or unaffordability.

Hence, in line with the Constitution's mandate that the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them as stated in Section 15, Article II of the 1987 Constitution and pursuant to the policy of the State to adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development as stated in Section 11, Article XIII of the 1987 Constitution, this bill seeks to accomplish the following objectives:

- a) To pursue a Primary Health Care Approach in the delivery of health services as well as to undertake appropriate health resource development in the country; and
- b) To promote and increase the availability preventive dental healthcare in the rural areas through the creation of dental health units within every rural health unit listed under the Department of Health.

This measure is in accordance with the 1978 International Alma Ata Conference wherein the Philippines joined several countries in the signing of a declaration formally adopting a "Primary Health Care" approach. This approach sought to incorporate national policies to sustain primary health care as part of the country's national health system.

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


FLORENCIO GABRIEL "BEM" NOEL
An Waray Partylist Representative



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**AN ACT CREATING A DENTAL UNIT IN EVERY RURAL HEALTH UNIT UNDER
THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AS PART OF THE PRIMARY APPROACH IN
THE DELIVERY OF HEALTH SERVICES AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

Section 1. Declaration of Policy. — It is the policy of the State:

- a) To pursue the Primary Health Care Approach in the delivery of health services and to undertake the appropriate health human resource development for this policy; and
- b) To promote preventive dental healthcare in the rural areas as part of the Primary Health Care strategy.

Sec. 2. Definition of Terms. — As used in this Act, the following terms shall mean:

- a) *Rural Health Unit* (also known as Main Health Center) shall be composed of a doctor, a nurse and a midwife. Its function is to carry out the public health functions of the Department of Health which includes both preventive and curative health care.
- b) *Dental Unit* shall be composed of a public health dentist and a trained Barangay Health Worker as a dental aide.

Sec. 3. Creation of Dental Unit. — As part of the Primary Health Care Approach, there is hereby created a dental unit in every rural health unit under the supervision of the Department of Health.

Sec. 4. Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR). — Within ninety (90) days from the approval of this Act, the Department of Health shall promulgate the rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

Sec. 5. *Funding.* — The amount necessary for the purpose of this Act shall be funded from the current fiscal year's appropriation for the Department of Health (DOH). Thereafter, such amount as may be necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

Sec. 6. *Effectivity.* — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,