Republic of the Philippines HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Quezon City

First Regular Session

н. в. No. <u>1563</u>



Introduced by HONORABLE ROMMEL RICO T. ANGARA

AN ACT

REQUIRING ALL NATIONAL, REGIONAL, AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS TO ESTABLISH, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN A DIALYSIS WARD OR UNIT IN THEIR RESPECTIVE HOSPITAL AND PROVIDING FREE DIALYSIS TREATMENT TO INDIGENT PATIENTS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

According to the Department of Health (DOH) News Report in 2018, one person dies every hour from kidney failure making it the ninth leading cause of death. Based on the data from the DOH's Philippine Network for Organ Sharing, close to 23,000 patients underwent dialysis treatment due to kidney failure in 2013, a huge jump from the 4,000 cases recorded in 2004. More than 7, 000 cases of kidney failure in the country are recorded every year. The National Kidney and Transplant Institute (NKTI) said that for every 1 million Filipinos, 120 of them are most likely to develop kidney failure and some 10,000 people need to replace their kidney function each year.

Dialysis does help improve and lengthen the life of the patient but it comes a high price ranging from P60,000 to P70,000 a month, exclusive of the fees for laboratory tests and medicines. Thus, due to the high cost of the dialysis treatment, patients from remote provinces take into consideration not only the cost of the treatment but also their travel expenses. Worst, a number of these patients do not have the means to avail of the dialysis treatment thus settles for alternative medicines.

To immediately address the needs of the dialysis patients, this bill requires all national, regional and provincial government hospitals to establish, operate and maintain a dialysis ward or unit to ensure that dialysis treatment will be available, accessible and cost-effective especially to those living in the rural areas. Moreover, this bill requires that dialysis treatment be provided to indigent patients free of charge.

For a more efficient delivery of affordable and quality healthcare services to the Filipino people, the immediate approval of this proposed measure is earnestly sought.

ROMMEL PICO T. ANGARA
Representative
Lone District, Province of Aurora

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
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Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

- Section 1. Short Title. This Act shall be known as the "Dialysis Center Act."
 - Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* It is the declared policy of the State to improve the delivery of health care services to the people and to ensure hospital facilities are available, affordable and accessible to the people.
- Sec. 3. *Definition of Terms.* For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall mean:
- 7 a) Secretary refers to the Secretary of the Department of Health;
- b) *National Government Hospital* refers to a hospital operated and maintained either partially or wholly by the national government or by any department, division, board or other agency thereof;
- 11 c) Regional Government Hospital refers to a hospital operated and maintained 12 either partially or wholly by the national government or by any department, 13 division, board or other agency thereof;
- d) *Provincial Government Hospital* refers to a hospital operated and maintained either partially or wholly by the provincial government or other political subdivision, or by any department division, board or other agency thereof; and
- e) *Indigent Patient* refers to a patient who has no visible means of income, compensation or financial assistance from his/her relatives to support his/her basic needs, as determined by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).
- Sec. 4. *Establishment, Operation and Maintenance of a Dialysis Ward or Unit.* Within two (2) years from the effectivity of this Act, all national, regional, and

provincial government hospitals are hereby required to establish, operate and maintain a dialysis ward or unit in their hospital. The dialysis ward or unit shall be equipped with complete dialysis machine, equipment and supplies.

- Sec. 5. Free Dialysis Treatment to Indigent Patients. Dialysis treatment in all national, regional and provincial government hospitals shall be provided free of charge to indigent patients as defined in Section 3 (e) hereof.
- Sec. 6. *Penalty.* Any hospital chief, administrator or officer-in-charge who fails to comply with this Act shall be punished with a fine of Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00) but not more than One Hundred Thousand Pesos (P100,000.00).
- Sec. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations*. The Secretary shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.
 - Sec. 8. *Appropriations.* Such amount as may be necessary to implement the provisions of this Act is hereby authorized to be appropriated from the National Treasury. Thereafter, the amount necessary for the continuous implementation of this Act shall be included in the government hospital's annual appropriations.
 - Sec. 9. *Separability Clause.* If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.
 - Sec. 10. *Repealing Clause.* Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.
 - Sec. 11. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in any two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,