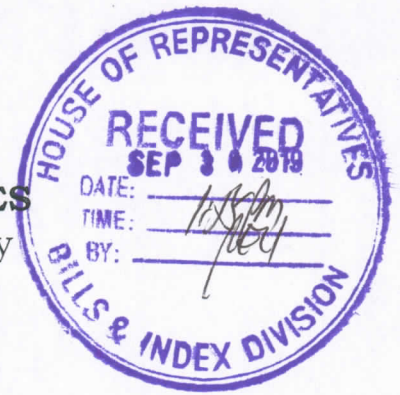


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City



EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 4889

Introduced by REPRESENTATIVE ERIC L. OLIVAREZ

EXPLANATORY NOTE

According to the Philippine Medical Association, there are 130,000 licensed physicians in the country. However, there are only 70,000 who are active in the profession. This means that the present doctor-population ration of the Philippines is at 1:33,000. It has been reported that a good number of doctors have turned to nursing and work as nurses overseas. Despite this, the gap between the number of doctors and the patients still needs to be bridged as medical professionals play a vital role in our society. This Bill is intended to contribute in helping the country add more physicians in order to increase the number of physicians that work in the country.

Besides the number of physicians who prefer to work overseas, another problem that contributes in the shortage of licensed physicians in the country is the cost of medical education. The cost of medical education is high, it is so costly that even families from the middle class find it difficult to avail of medical education. The total fee for a medical student in one semester in the Philippines is roughly around One Hundred Fifty Thousand Pesos (Php150,000.00) and the expenses do not end here. Not to mention the cost of books and medical instruments that are required as part of their studies, becoming a doctor is most definitely exorbitant.

As a measure to surge the number of licensed physicians in the country, this Bill intends to confer a full scholarship grant to all incoming first year medical students who graduated as part of the top ten of their class and whose parents' combined income is below economic standards in all state universities and colleges. This way, incoming medical students who have performed exceptionally in their collegiate studies and whose financial capabilities deprive them of the chance to avail of medical education will be able to do so thereby eventually adding to the number of physicians in the country.

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


ERIC OLIVAREZ

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
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4889
House Bill No. _____

Introduced by REPRESENTATIVE ERIC L. OLIVAREZ

**AN ACT PROVIDING MEDICAL SCHOLARSHIPS STATE
UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES TO QUALIFIED STUDENTS AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

*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 National Medical Scholarship Act."

SECTION 2. State Universities and Colleges shall hereby
confer a full scholarship grant to all incoming first year medical
students who graduated as top ten of their class and whose
parents' combined income is below economic standards.

SECTION 3. The amount necessary to carry out the
provisions of this Act be charged against the 2019 appropriations of
the Commission on Higher Education. Thereafter such sums as
may be necessary for the continuous implementation of this Act
shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its publication in the official Gazette in at least three newspaper of general circulation thirty (30) days upon its approval.

Approved.