

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6166



Introduced by: Hon. Angelina "Helen" D.L. Tan, M.D.

AN ACT
APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF TWO BILLION AND FORTY MILLION PESOS (P2,040,000,000.00)
AS SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR FY 2020 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

On 07 January 2020, Chinese health authorities reported that the cause of the viral pneumonia outbreak in Wuhan City, China was a new or novel type of coronavirus acute respiratory disease (2019-nCoV ARD) that has not been previously identified in humans.

During the second meeting of the Emergency Committee convened by the World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General under the International Health Regulations (IHR) (2005) regarding the outbreak of 2019-nCoV ARD in the People's Republic of China, with exportations to other countries, 2019-nCoV ARD has been declared as constituting a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) following the rise in new coronavirus cases outside China.

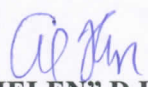
President Rodrigo Roa Duterte thereafter issued a temporary travel ban on all travelers from Wuhan City and the entire Hubei province in China, the epicenter of the deadly virus. The President eventually expanded the travel ban on foreigners coming from mainland China and its special administrative regions, particularly Macau and Hong Kong, amidst the rising 2019-nCoV ARD cases.

Two (2) 2019-nCoV ARD cases have already been confirmed by the DOH, one of whom had died of the 2019-nCoV ARD, the first known fatality outside China. The 2019-nCoV ARD has already killed hundreds of people and infected thousands globally as it continues to spread beyond China;

In this light, and in line with the mandate that "The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them" (Article 2, Section 15 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution), the Department of Health is duty bound to strengthen its health system response to contain the spread of 2019-nCoV ARD through the repatriation of affected Filipinos and procurement of adequate and appropriate surgical masks for persons under investigation and health workers as well as the needed personal protective equipment.

Hence, this bill seeks to augment the budget requirements of the DOH to procure surgical masks and personal protective equipment as well as the repatriation of Filipinos affected by the 2019-nCoV ARD.

In view thereof, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


ANGELINA "HELEN" D.L. TAN, M.D.
4th District, Quezon

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

SECTION 1. *Appropriations.* – The sum of two billion and forty million pesos (P2,040,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated to supplement the General Appropriations Act of 2020 (Republic Act No. 11465) for the purpose of augmenting the budget for the health system response of the Department of Health on the 2019-novel coronavirus acute respiratory disease (2019-nCoV ARD).

SEC. 2. *Use and Release of Funds.* – The amount appropriated shall be released by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) to the Department of Health (DOH) in accordance with budgeting, accounting and auditing laws, rules and regulations. The DOH shall issue the guidelines necessary for the utilization of the fund.

SEC. 3. *Applicability of General and Special Provisions in the FY 2020 General Appropriations Fund.* – The amounts herein appropriated shall be used for the purposes indicated and subject to the relevant special and general provisions under Republic Act No. 11465 or the FY 2020 General Appropriations Act (GAA).

SEC. 4. *Availability of Appropriations.* – The appropriations authorized in this Act shall be available for release and obligation for the purposes specified from the date of the effectivity of this Act until December 31, 2020.

SEC. 5. *Transparency Provisions.* – The DOH shall ensure that the details of activities are included as part of the information posted on their transparency seals required under relevant laws and regulations.

SEC. 6. *Reporting.* – The DOH shall submit to the Senate Committees on Finance and Health and Demography and the House of Representatives Committees on Appropriations and Health, or upon the request of any of the aforesaid committees of Congress, a report giving a detailed account of the utilization of the supplemental budget provided under this Act.

SEC. 7. *Separability Clause.* – If, for any reason or reasons, any part or provision of this Act shall be deemed unconstitutional or invalid, the other parts or provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 8. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect immediately upon its publication.

Approved,