

**Republic of the Philippines**  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
*Quezon City*

**SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS**  
**First Regular Session**

**House Bill No. 3441**

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	
<b>RECEIVED</b>	
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**INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES**  
**EVELINA ESCUDERO AND MARIA VIDA ESPINOSA BRAVO**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

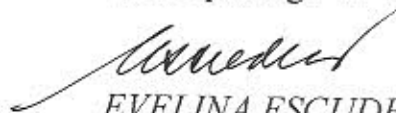
In the Philippines, cancer ranks third in leading causes of morbidity and mortality after communicable diseases and cardiovascular diseases. There is at present a low cancer prevention consciousness and most cancer patients seek consultation only at advanced stages, hence cancer survival rates are relatively low. If the current low cancer prevention consciousness persists, it is estimated that for every 1800 Filipinos, one will develop cancer annually. At present, most Filipino cancer patients seek medical advice only when symptomatic or at advanced stages. The main culprit: lack of financial resources.

Among the great challenges for those diagnosed with cancer is finding funds to complete the recommended treatment. The more severe the condition, the higher the cost of treatment. This puts tremendous stress on families who will suffer both emotionally, seeing their loved ones suffer from health issues, and financially. There is a cure. But many cannot afford the treatment on their own. For the very poor, a treatable illness can be a family tragedy.

This bill seeks to establish an Indigent Cancer Patients' Assistance Fund to support the medicine and treatment needs of indigent and underprivileged cancer patients in the country. The Fund will be administered by the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) and of which will be determined also by PhilHealth in coordination with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG).

It is envisioned that through the implementation of such a mechanism of providing assistance to indigent cancer patients and their families the State's mandate to promote and protect the right of the people to health is fulfilled.

It is in this view that the immediate passage of the bill is earnestly sought.



EVELINA ESCUDERO

Representative

First (1<sup>st</sup>) District, Sorsogon



MARIA VIDA ESPINOSA BRAVO

Representative

First (1<sup>st</sup>) District, Masbate

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**INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE**  
**MARIA VIDA ESPINOSA - BRAVO**

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**AN ACT**  
**TO ASSIST INDIGENT CANCER PATIENTS AND**  
**THEIR FAMILIES, ESTABLISHING FOR THE**  
**PURPOSE AN INDIGENT CANCER PATIENTS**  
**ASSISTANCE FUND AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

1       **SECTION 1. *Title*** -This Act shall be known as the ‘Indigent Cancer  
2 Patients’ Assistance Fund of 2016’.

3       **SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy***- It is a declared policy of the  
4 State to protect and promote the right to health of the people. For this  
5 purpose, the State shall implement a system of providing premium care and  
6 assistance to indigent cancer patients and their families.

7       **SECTION 3. *Establishment of the Indigent Cancer Patients’***  
8 ***Assistance Fund*** - An Indigent Cancer Patients’ Assistance Fund (ICPAF)  
9 is hereby established to be administered by the Philippine Health Insurance  
10 Corporation (PhilHealth) to support the cancer medicine and treatment needs  
11 of indigent and underprivileged cancer patients to be identified by

1 PhilHealth in coordination with the Department of Social Welfare and  
2 Development (DSWD) and the Department of Interior and Local  
3 Government (DILG).

4 **SECTION 4. *Appropriation*** - The initial funding of this Act shall  
5 be charged against the current year's appropriations of the DOH. Thereafter,  
6 such amount as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this  
7 Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

8 **SECTION 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations*** - Within  
9 ninety (90) days from the promulgation of this Act, the Philhealth in  
10 consultation with the DSWD and DILG, and representatives from hospital  
11 association, medical practitioners and civil society representing the  
12 marginalized sectors shall formulate the rules and regulations necessary for  
13 the effective implementation of this Act.

14 **SECTION 6. *Separability Clause*** - If any provision or part hereof,  
15 is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision  
16 not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

17 **SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause*** - All laws, decrees, orders, rules  
18 and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act  
19 are hereby deemed repealed or modified accordingly.

**APPROVED.**