

**Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City**

**18th Congress
First Regular Session**

House Bill No. 6524



EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that:

“The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them (Article II, Section 15).”

“The State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost. There shall be priority for the needs of the underprivileged sick, elderly, disabled, women, and children. The State shall endeavor to provide free medical care to paupers” (Article XIII, Section 11).

In addition, Republic Act 11223 or the Universal Health Care Act (UHCA) of 2018 declares that the State shall adopt:

“A health care model that provides all Filipinos access to a comprehensive set of quality and cost-effective, promotive, preventive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative health services without causing financial hardship, and prioritizes the needs of the population who cannot afford such services” (Sec. 2 (b), RA 11223).

Consistent with the above Constitutional and UHCA provisions, this proposed measure aims to establish an apex or end-referral hospital to protect and promote the right to health of the citizens of the Municipality of Rodriguez (Montalban) and its surrounding areas. The catchment area for the proposed hospital will include not only Montalban, but also residents of San Mateo, Rizal, parts of Quezon City, and San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan who cannot afford private hospital care.

The population of Rodriguez was already 370,000 based on the 2015 official census, and currently estimated to be about 450,000 due to the continuing relocation of informal settlers from different parts of Metro Manila. The surrounding catchments areas are also major sites for government-relocated informal settlers as well as socialized housing communities. Based on the standards of the Department of Health, there should at least be one public hospital bed for every 1,000 population to serve the community, or about 400 beds. The existing 50-bed level-1 provincial hospital, and the 20-bed municipal infirmary are very inadequate to support the tertiary hospital needs of Rodriguez and its surrounding areas.

The UHCA seeks to guarantee that all citizens have access to an apex or end-referral hospital within the provincial health system. However, the geographic location of Montalban makes access to a province-based apex hospital quite difficult for citizens. The predominantly low-

income residents of Montalban and surrounding areas usually have to access specialized, tertiary public hospital care from Amang Rodriguez Medical Center in Marikina City (at least 14 kilometers away); East Avenue Medical Center in East Avenue, Quezon City (at least 20 km. via Payatas); and Quirino Memorial Medical Center in Katipunan Ave., Quezon City (at least 20 km.). The distance, travel time, and transportation costs add unconscionable burdens to the poor and discourage them to seek medical services. In addition, these referral hospitals are already very congested and operating many times beyond their existing capacity, which affects their ability to provide quality and competent health services to the poor.

This Bill is being submitted for the consideration of this Congress to promote and protect the right to health of the poor communities of Rodriguez and San Mateo, Rizal; Payatas, Quezon City; and San Jose del Monte, Bulacan.

J. Fidel Nograles
JUAN FIDEL FELIPE F. NOGRALES

**Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City**

**18th Congress
First Regular Session
6524
House Bill No. _____**

Introduced by: HON. JUAN FIDEL FELIPE F. NOGRALES

**AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE NORTHERN TAGALOG REGIONAL HOSPITAL IN THE
MUNICIPALITY OF RODRIGUEZ (MONTALBAN), SECOND DISTRICT OF THE
PROVINCE OF RIZAL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. There shall be established, under the direct supervision of the Department of Health, a two hundred (200) bed capacity, Level-II hospital in the Municipality of Rodriguez (Montalban), Second District of the Province of Rizal, to be known as the Northern Tagalog Regional Hospital.

SECTION 2. The Department of Health shall provide funding for the establishment and operation of the Northern Tagalog Regional Hospital. The Secretary of Health shall include in the Department's budget the appropriate capital outlay for the hospital construction and equipment requirements, and adequate operating funds of the facility thereafter.

SECTION 3. Within sixty (60) days after the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Health shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,