

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session
3078
House Bill No. _____



Introduced by: **REPRESENTATIVE IRENE GAY F. SAULOG**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

A measles outbreak occurred in Metro Manila and several other regions in the country during the early part of 2019. From January to June 2019, the Department of Health (DOH) reported more than 30,000 measles cases and more than 500 deaths due to the said disease nationwide.

The rise in measles cases can be attributed to the low vaccine coverage. Health officials acknowledged that one of the contributing factors to this is the loss of trust and confidence in vaccines resulting from the 2017 Dengvaxia controversy. In fact, a recent study from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine revealed that in 2018, only 60%-80% believe that vaccines are important, safe, and effective. This is a huge drop from close to 100% in 2015.

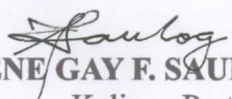
There is a need to stem the tide of measles cases. At this day and age, it is simply inexcusable to have tens of thousands suffer and hundreds die from preventable diseases like measles. The 1987 Constitution mandates the State to safeguard the health of the Filipinos. Article II, Section 15 states:

The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.

The World Health Organization explained that in order for a community to be fully protected against measles, a 95% immunization coverage among all children is needed. The government must strive to return to our previous status when the country is nearly measles-free. A robust immunization program is imperative for the country to completely eradicate the vaccine-preventable diseases. Such program is in line with Article XIII, Section 11 of the 1987 Constitution which mandates the State to adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development.

One immediate action of the DOH in response to the recent measles outbreak is the school-based immunization program aimed at targeting the cohort of kinder to Grade 7 students. Tapping the public education system is an effective way of reaching those who are undervaccinated or unvaccinated.

There is a need to incorporate the school-based immunization program into law. Doing so would strengthen the program and ensure its consistent and regular implementation through the years. Institutionalizing this program would especially benefit the poor as they will receive an effective healthcare intervention that serves as protection from diseases. This would help reduce future health costs which will have a huge adverse impact in their subsistence.


IRENE GAY F. SAULOG
Kalinga Party-list

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM, AMENDING FOR THE
PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10152, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
"MANDATORY INFANTS AND CHILDREN HEALTH IMMUNIZATION ACT OF 2011"

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

SECTION 1. The following provision is inserted as Section 4-A of Republic Act No. 10152, otherwise known as "Mandatory Infants and Children Health Immunization Act of 2011":

"SEC. 4-A. SCHOOL-BASED NATIONAL IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM – THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH), IN COLLABORATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (DEPED) AND THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (DILG), SHALL UNDERTAKE A SCHOOL-BASED NATIONAL IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM IN ALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS DURING THE MONTH OF AUGUST. THE DOH SHALL DETERMINE THE VACCINES SUITABLE FOR THE VARIOUS AGE GROUPS FROM THE LIST ENUMERATED IN SECTION 3 UNDER THIS ACT."

SEC. 2. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the budget of the Department of Health (DOH) under the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 3. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90) days upon the approval of this Act, the DOH and all concerned agencies shall formulate rules and regulations as may be necessary for the proper implementation thereof.

SEC. 4. *Separability Clause.* – If any part, section, or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other parts thereof not affected thereby shall remain valid.

SEC. 5. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, acts, presidential decrees, executive orders, administrative orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are deemed amended, modified or repealed accordingly.

SEC. 6. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after the completion of its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,