

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1999

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

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR AFFORDABLE DRUG REHABILITATION TREATMENT FOR PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION (PHIC) BENEFICIARIES, FURTHER AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT 7875, AS AMENDED

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article 2, Section 15 of the Constitution provides that, "The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them." It also provides that: "The maintenance of peace and order, the protection of life, liberty, and property, and the promotion of the general welfare are essential for the enjoyment by all the people of the blessings of democracy." (Article II, Sec. 5).

One of the pervading social ills at present is rampant drug addiction. Various laws have been passed to prevent and control this drug menace. What has been overlooked however and has not been properly addressed is the rehabilitation of drug dependents, providing for such facilities and medical treatment to ensure their complete recovery and eventual social reintegration.

All over the Philippines, across the regions are private and government run rehabilitation centers. However, based on a 2009 survey, there are 1.7 million drug dependents. Of this, only 2000 underwent treatment and rehabilitation. The cost of treatment and rehabilitation discourages families of drug dependents to avail of the same.

This bill therefore proposes that Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PHIC) beneficiaries who are drug dependents and who submit to treatment and rehabilitation to an accredited health care provider shall be at an affordable cost. This is pursuant to the constitutional mandate, "that 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."

Republic Act No. 7875, an Act instituting a National Health Insurance Program for all Filipinos and establishing the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (Philhealth) for the purpose was amended by Republic Act No. 9241. This amendment highlighted the inclusion of drug abuse and dependency treatment as among those personal services covered. It also recognized rehabilitation centers as health institutions that are considered as health care providers.

This bill further proposes amendment to specifically include rehabilitation treatment as among the enumerated categories of personal health services to ensure its beneficiaries of affordable rehabilitation treatment.

This bill also calls for the application for accreditation of Rehabilitation Centers in order that Philhealth members will be accorded the proposed benefits.

The approval of this proposed bill is therefore recommended.


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. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is a declared policy of the State to adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development including the rehabilitation treatment of drug dependents and individuals victimized by the menace of drug abuse. With the alarming and continuously increasing drug addiction in the country, a faceless enemy that ruins countless lives and cripples the potentials of our youth, the State affirms a policy of society against drugs and for the purpose, provides affordable drug rehabilitation treatment for Philippine Health Insurance Corporation beneficiaries.

SEC. 2. Section 4 of Republic Act No. 7875, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

"Section 4. Definition of Terms. - For the purpose of this Act, the following terms shall 10 be defined as follows:

XXX

ZZ) DRUG DEPENDENT AS DEFINED UNDER RA 9165 (COMPREHENSIVE DANGEROUS DRUGS ACT OF 2002), A PERSON EXHIBITING A CLUSTER OF PHYSIOLOGICAL, BEHAVIORAL AND COGNITIVE PHENOMENA OF VARIABLE INTENSITY, IN WHICH THE USE OF PSYCHOACTIVE DRUG TAKES ON A HIGH PRIORITY THEREBY INVOLVING, AMONG OTHERS, A STRONG DESIRE OR A SENSE OF COMPULSION TO TAKE THE SUBSTANCE AND THE DIFFICULTIES IN CONTROLLING SUBSTANCE-TAKING BEHAVIOR IN TERMS OF ITS ONSET, TERMINATION, OR LEVELS OF USE.

SEC. 3. Section 10 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 10. Benefit Package. -

Members and their dependents are entitled to the following minimum services, subject to the limitations specified in this Act and as may be determined by the Corporation"

XXX

"(c) Emergency and transfer services; [and]

(d) Such other health care services that the Corporation and the DOH shall determine to be appropriate and cost-effective[.] ; AND

E) TWO-WEEK ACUTE DETOXIFICATION, PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT, AND DEBRIEFING OF DRUG DEPENDENTS:

(1) ROOM AND BOARD;

(2) SERVICES OF HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS; AND

(3) PRESCRIPTION DRUGS AND BIOLOGICALS, SUBJECT TO THE LIMITATIONS STATED IN SECTION 37 OF THIS ACT

These services and packages shall be reviewed annually to determine their financial sustainability and relevance to health innovations, with the end in view of quality assurance, increased benefits and reduced out-of-pocket expenditures.

SEC. 4. Implementing Rules and Regulations. The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PHIC) shall issue the necessary implementing rules and regulations in consultation with the Dangerous Drugs Board and relevant sectors for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 5. Repealing Clause. All laws, issuances, or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 6. Effectivity. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation, whichever comes earlier.

Approved,