

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

18<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS  
First Regular Session 6770

HOUSE BILL No. \_\_\_\_\_

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE MARICEL NATIVIDAD-NAGAÑO

**AN ACT STRENGTHENING NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE TO  
PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCIES**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Republic Act No. 11332 signed into law on April 26, 2019 envisioned to provide an efficient and effective disease surveillance of notifiable diseases including emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases, diseases for elimination and eradication, epidemics and health events including chemical, radio-nuclear and environmental agents of public health concern.


The State recognizes pandemics, epidemics, and other public health emergencies as threats to public health and without doubt, to national security because their occurrence undermines to a very large extent and magnitude the social, economic, cultural and political functions of the State.

In as much as the protection and promotion of the right to health of the people and the noble goal to inculcate health consciousness among them is a State policy under Section 15, Article II of the 1987 Philippine Constitution, this representation therefore is proposing to strengthen national preparedness and response to public health emergencies, most notably during epidemics, pandemics or other notifiable emergence or re-emergence of infectious diseases.

It is even very regrettable that 20% of the infected with COVID19 are frontline health workers and many of those who succumbed to the disease are doctors and nurses tending to the thousands already infected.

Extraordinary measures in the economic and social aspects of our daily lives are now in place and may very well be the norm in the coming days and years ahead thus this measure hopes to give us a distinct advantage in our fight for survival and have normal lives.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
MARICEL NATIVIDAD-NAGAÑO



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**AN ACT**  
**STRENGTHENING NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE TO**  
**PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCIES**

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

**SECTION 1.** Short Title. - This Act shall be known as the "*Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act of 2020.*"

**SECTION 2.** Creation of a National Health Strategy for Public Health Emergencies - The Secretary of Health shall spearhead the creation of a national health strategy to address public health emergencies. This strategy shall provide for integrated policy coordination and strategic direction with respect to all matters related to national public health and medical preparedness and execution and deployment of national response before, during, and following public health emergencies.

**SECTION 3.** Components of a National Health Strategy. - The National Health Strategy shall include:

(a) Provisions for increasing the preparedness, response capabilities, and surge capacity of ambulatory care facilities, dental health facilities, and critical care service systems

(b) Plans for optimizing a coordinated and flexible approach to the medical surge capacity of hospitals, other health care facilities, critical care, and trauma care and emergency medical systems.



(c) Provisions to account for the unique needs of individuals with disabilities in a public health emergency.

(d) Strategic initiatives to advance countermeasures to diagnose, mitigate, prevent, or treat harm from any biological agent or toxin or any chemical, radiological, or nuclear agent or agents, whether naturally, occurring, unintentional, or deliberate

(e) Conduct OF periodic evaluations of national and local preparedness and response capabilities which shall include drill~ and exercises to ensure medical surge capacity for events without notice

**SECTION 4.** Creation of Task Force on Public Emergencies, - (A) A task force under the control of the Secretary of Health shall be established to conduct research necessary for the creation of the Strategy. The Task Force shall be composed of representatives from:

- (1) The Department of Health
- (2) The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC)
- (3) The Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG)
- (4) The National Security Adviser; and
- (5) The Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC)

The Task Force shall:

- (1) Monitor emerging issues and concerns as they relate to medical and public health preparedness and response for at-risk individuals in the event of a public health emergency
- (2) Identify and minimize gaps, duplication and other inefficiencies in medical and public health preparedness and response activities and the actions necessary to overcome these obstacles.
- (3) Disseminate and update novel and best practices of outreach to and care of at-risk individuals before, during, and, following public health emergencies in as timely a manner as is practicable, including from the time a public health threat is identified; and

(4) Ensure that public health and medical information distributed by the government during a public health emergency is delivered in a manner that considers the range of communication needs of the intended recipients, including at-risk individuals.

**SECTION 5.** Creation of Medical Reserve Corps. - The Secretary of Health shall establish a medical reserve corps composed of volunteer health professionals. The Medical Reserve Corps shall be called into duty if needed during public health emergencies

**SECTION 6.** Appropriations. - To carry out the provisions of this Act, the Secretary of Health shall immediately include in the Department's programs the operationalization of the National Health Strategy for Public Health Emergencies, the funding of which shall be authorized to be appropriated in such sums as may be necessary for each fiscal year in the General Appropriations Act.

**SECTION 7.** Separability Clause. - If any provision or part thereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

**SECTION 8.** Repealing Clause. - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative' order, rule, or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly

**SECTION 9.** Effectivity Clause. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

**Approved**