

**Republic of the Philippines**  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
*Quezon City*  
**SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS**  
**First Regular Session**  
**House Bill No. 2466**

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	
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**INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE ARTHUR C. YAP**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

When both kidneys fail due to various reasons - usually diabetes, inflammation of the kidney and high blood pressure - the struggle to stay alive hinges either on a kidney transplant or continuous dialysis treatments. A transplant can cost around 500,000 to a million pesos, while dialysis treatments costs P3,500 on the average per session.

Dialysis is the process of removing blood from an artery, purifying it by dialysis, adding vital substances, and returning it to a vein. Patients on dialysis need to get two to three treatments a week which will cost them about P28,000 to P42,000 per month. Those numbers are undeniably very costly and unaffordable by most Filipinos, which explains why renal disease is one of the top 10 causes of death in the Philippines. Stories of kidney patients begging around for funds from legislators and charitable institutions to pay for their dialysis treatments are, sadly, just too familiar.

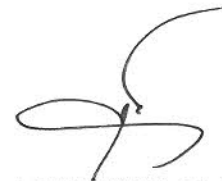
Confounding the problem is the fact that sophisticated and advanced hospital and medical equipment and facilities are found mostly in highly urbanized cities, so much so that patients from the rural areas have to travel all the way to these urban cities just to avail themselves of the needed treatment.

In consonance with the government's mandate to provide Filipinos with comprehensive health services, local government units must be activated to provide for the necessary facilities to make available and affordable the medical treatments much needed by the people particularly in the far-flung areas of the country.

This bill seeks to mandate all government hospitals (national, regional and provincial) to put up dialysis wards for indigent patients and have the procedure free of charge.

Under the proposed measure, a patient whose annual family income does not exceed P30,000 will qualify under the category of indigent patient and be entitled to dialysis at no cost. The propose measure also takes into account the high cost of travel that put many patients especially in the rural areas at a disadvantage.

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

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, flowing 'S' shape with a horizontal loop at the bottom.

**ARTHUR C. YAP**  
**Representative**

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

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

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**INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE ARTHUR C. YAP**

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**AN ACT**  
**REQUIRING ALL NATIONAL, REGIONAL, AND**  
**PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS TO**  
**ESTABLISH, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN A DIALYSIS**  
**WARD OR UNIT AND PROVIDING FREE DIALYSIS**  
**TREATMENT TO INDIGENT PATIENTS**

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

1       **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** - This Act shall be known as the 'Dialysis  
2       Center Act of 2016'.

3       **SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** - It is the declared policy of  
4       the State to improve the delivery of health care services to the people and to  
5       ensure hospital facilities are available, affordable and accessible to the  
6       people.

7       **SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.*** - For purposes of this Act, the  
8       following terms shall mean:

9       a) *Secretary* – shall refer to the Secretary of the Department of Health

10      b) *National Government Hospital* – shall refer to a hospital operated and  
11      maintained either partially or wholly by the national government or by  
12      any department, division, board or other agency thereof.

1 c) *Regional Government Hospital* – shall refer to a hospital operated and  
2 maintained either partially or wholly by the national government or by  
3 any department, division, board or other agency thereof.

4 d) *Provincial Government Hospital* – shall refer to a hospital operated and  
5 maintained either partially or wholly by the provincial government or  
6 other political subdivision, or by any department, division, board or  
7 other agency thereof.

8 e) *Indigent Patient* – shall refer to a patient whose combined annual family  
9 incomes does not exceed Thirty Thousand Pesos ( P 30,000.00 )  
10 annually.

11 **SECTION 4. *Establishment, Operation and Maintenance of a***  
12 ***Dialysis Ward or Unit.*** - Within two (2) years from the effectivity of this  
13 Act, all national, regional, and provincial government hospitals are hereby  
14 required to establish, operate and maintain a dialysis ward or unit in their  
15 hospitals. The dialysis ward or unit shall be equipped with complete dialysis  
16 machine, equipment and supplies.

17 **SECTION 5. *Free Dialysis Treatment to Indigent Patients.*** -  
18 Dialysis treatment in all national, regional and provincial government  
19 hospitals shall be provided free of charge to indigent patients as defined in  
20 Section 3 (e) hereof.

21 **SECTION 6. *Penalty.*** - Any hospital chief, administrator or officer-  
22 in-charge who fails to comply with this Act shall be punished with a fine of  
23 Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00) but not more than One Hundred  
24 Thousand Pesos (P100,000.00).

1           **SECTION 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - The Secretary  
2 shall promulgate the rules and regulations necessary for the effective  
3 implementation of this Act.

4           **SECTION 8. *Appropriations.*** - Such amount as may be necessary to  
5 implement the provisions of this Act is hereby authorized to be appropriated  
6 from the National Treasury. Thereafter, the amount necessary for the  
7 continuous implementation of this Act shall be included in the government  
8 hospital's annual appropriations.

9           **SECTION 9. *Separability.*** - If any provision or part hereof, is held  
10 invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not  
11 otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

12           **SECTION 10. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, decrees, orders, rules  
13 and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act  
14 are hereby deemed repealed or modified accordingly.

15           **SECTION 11. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15)  
16 days after its full publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2)  
17 newspapers of general circulation.

**APPROVED.**