

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 5824



INTRODUCED BY
REP. ALFRED VARGAS

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BREAST CARE CENTERS IN
EVERY REGION NATIONWIDE, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Among Asian countries, the Philippines has the highest incidence of breast cancer.¹ According to the Philippine Society of Medical Oncology, three out of 100 Filipino women can develop breast cancer before they reach the age of 75. It further says that breast cancer accounts for 16 percent of all cancer incidence in the country, and eight percent of all cancer-related deaths.²

It is noteworthy, however, that the number of survivors is increasing worldwide due to intensified awareness campaigns and early screening that helps detect the disease during its curable stage. Thus, it is important for the State to exert more efforts to disseminate information for breast cancer prevention and to assist in the diagnosis and treatment of conditions for breast-related ailments.

This Bill aims to establish a Breast Care Center in every region of the Philippines. These Centers shall be equipped with specialized diagnosis and treatment facilities. They shall also direct the conduct awareness campaigns, information drive and public education programs in a localized level.

In line of the foregoing, the passage of the Bill is earnestly sought.


ALFRED VARGAS

¹Inquirer.net. PH highest breast cancer incidence rate in Asia, health expert say Available at:

<http://lifestyle.inquirer.net/128663/ph-highest-breast-cancer-incidence-rate-in-asia-health-experts-say> [21 October 2015]

²Philip C. Tubeza. Breast cancer is the most prevalent in PH. Philippines Daily Inquirer. Available at:

<http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/291078/breast-cancer-is-the-most-prevalent-in-ph> [21 October 2015]

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

SECTION 1. *Establishment of Breast Care Centers.* - A Breast Care Center, known in this Act as "Center", shall be established in every region of this country to spearhead the fight against breast cancer and to specialize in the diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up of conditions affecting the breast. It shall be a new department in existing regional hospitals of the National Government. Should there be no regional hospital in the region, the Center shall be attached to any district hospital in the region, which is most accessible to the highest of constituents.

SEC. 2. *Equipment and Personnel.* - The Centers shall be provided with such equipment tools, implements, devices, apparatus, and personnel as may be necessary for them to carry out multiple programs such as Breast Protection, Breast Surveillance, Breast Imaging, Breast Diagnostics and Surgery, Breast Cancer Chemotherapy and Breast Cancer Awareness and Protection.

SEC. 3. *Function.* - The Centers shall, in coordination with local government units, local health offices, the Philippine Information Agency, and other

government agencies, shall spearhead a sustained and extensive information and awareness campaign within their respective region to raise the level of awareness of the region's constituents especially the women sector on the ills, causes and symptoms of the disease for its early detection and prevention.

The centers shall coordinate with regional and local education officials to ensure that female high school students in both public and private schools are taught the pertinent information about the disease and are trained to habitually self-examine themselves as a part of the regular secondary curriculum.

SEC. 4 *Implementing Rules and Regulations* – The Secretary of the Department of Health shall issue guidelines, orders, or rules and regulations as may be necessary for implementation of this Act.

SEC. 5 *Operationalization and Appropriations* – To fully implement the provisions of the Act, the Secretary of Health shall immediately include in the Department's program the operationalization of the Centers, the funding for which shall be included in the annual General Appropriation Act.

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

Approved,