

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

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 6011



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Introduced by CIBAC Party-List Representatives  
Eduardo "Bro. Eddie" C. Villanueva and Domingo C. Rivera

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**AN ACT PROVIDING A STANDARD OF CARE FOR THE  
TREATMENT OF PERSONS WITH BLEEDING DISORDERS,  
ESTABLISHING TREATMENT CENTERS AND  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

In the Philippines, about one million Filipinos are affected by Hemophilia, von Willebrand Disease and other bleeding disorders. However, only around 1,500 have been registered with the Philippine Hemophilia Foundation. This is partly due to the lack of awareness and understanding on this group of medical conditions.

Bleeding disorder is a genetic condition where the blood does not clot properly. It is caused by deficiency of proteins in the blood called clotting factors. There are 13 factors in the blood, and when one of it is missing or is deficient, it results in a bleeding disorder.

People with bleeding disorders can bleed for longer than normal, and some may experience spontaneous bleeding into joints, muscles, or other parts of their bodies. Women with bleeding disorders may experience menorrhagia (excessive menstruation) and post-partum hemorrhage, on top of other bleeding problems.

The most known of this group of medical conditions is Hemophilia, classified as Hemophilia A (Factor VIII deficiency) and Hemophilia B (Factor IX deficiency), which occurs mostly in males. But the most prevalent is von Willebrand Disease (deficiency in von Willebrand factor), which affects around 1 percent of the population – both

males and females. Other factor deficiency disorders are: I, II, V, VII, X, XI, XIII. (Source: World Federation of Hemophilia)

Bleeding disorders like Hemophilia, von Willebrand Disease and other factor deficiencies are usually inherited and genetic. Thus, there may be multiple members in a family affected by the condition and they will have it for life. There is no known cure yet for bleeding disorders.

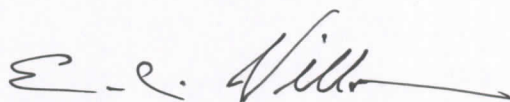
The World Health Organization and the Department of Health cited post-partum hemorrhage as one of the top causes of maternal deaths. Incidentally, the Philippines did not meet the Millennium Development Goal on maternal health. It is very possible that a big percentage of those mothers who died of post-partum hemorrhage had undiagnosed bleeding disorders.

Bleeding disorders are treated by replacing the missing or deficient factors either through blood products such as cryo-precipitate, cryo-supernatant, fresh frozen plasma, packed red blood cells (RBC) and whole blood or by manufactured plasma-derived factor concentrates and recombinant (genetically engineered) factor concentrates.

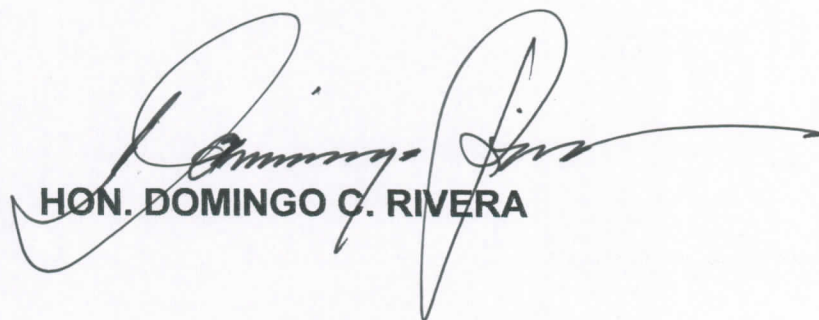
The cost of treatment is very high, and therefore, inaccessible to majority of Filipino patients. Many of them suffer with chronic pain and deformities in the joints because of lack of access to proper treatment. Availability of factor concentrates in the country is also inconsistent.

Other countries like India and Malaysia give free treatment to their citizens who have bleeding disorders. This bill seeks to provide medical and financial support to patients affected with this condition.

The immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



**HON. EDUARDO "BRO. EDDIE" C. VILLANUEVA**



**HON. DOMINGO C. RIVERA**



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FUNDS THEREFOR**

*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 "*Bleeding Disorder*  
2 *Standards of Care Act.*"

3  
4 **SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State:

- 5  
6 a) To ensure the adequate treatment of hemophilia at the lowest possible cost and  
7 endeavor to make them available for free to indigent patients;  
8  
9 b) To ensure the establishment of treatment centers in public hospitals; and  
10  
11 c) To establish a standard of care so that patients with severe bleeding disorders  
12 can receive necessary and appropriate medical care.  
13

14 **SECTION 3. Definitions.** – The following words and phrases when used in this Act  
15 shall have the meanings given to them in this Section unless the context clearly  
16 indicates otherwise:  
17

- 1 a) **Bleeding Disorder** refers to a medical condition characterized by a severe  
2 deficiency or absence of one or more essential blood clotting proteins in the  
3 human blood, often called factors, including all forms of hemophilia, von  
4 Willebrand disease and other bleeding disorders which result in uncontrollable  
5 bleeding or abnormal blood clotting.  
6  
7 b) **Blood clotting product** refers to an intravenously administered medicine  
8 manufactured from human plasma, recombinant biotechnology techniques and  
9 other processes, approved for distribution by the Food and Drugs Administration  
10 (FDA) and which is used for the treatment and prevention of symptoms  
11 associated with bleeding disorders. The term includes, but is not limited to:  
12  
13 1) Factor VIIa, Factor VIII and Factor IX products;  
14 2) Von Willebrand Factor products;  
15 3) Prothrombin complex concentrates;  
16 4) Activated prothrombin complex concentrates;  
17 5) Other products approved by the BFAD for the treatment of bleeding  
18 disorders and associated inhibitors.  
19  
20 c) **Indigent Patient** refers to any patient deemed unable to pay for services and or  
21 medical treatment, laboratory testing of blood and/or coagulation studies, or  
22 blood coagulating products and/or ancillary infusion equipment.  
23  
24 d) **DOH** refers to the Department of Health.  
25  
26 e) **Hemophilia** refers to a human bleeding disorder caused by a hereditary  
27 deficiency of the Factor VIII, Factor IX or Factor XI blood clotting protein in human  
28 blood.  
29  
30 f) **Von Willebrand disease** refers to a human bleeding disorder caused by a  
31 hereditary deficiency or abnormality of the von Willebrand Factor in human blood.  
32

33 **SECTION 4. State Treatment Facilities.** – The State shall establish hemophilia  
34 treatment facilities in key cities and regions nationwide in designated hospitals with  
35 Cancer and Hematology Departments.  
36

37 Each Hemophilia Treatment Facility shall provide to all hemophilia patients:  
38

- 39 a) Care by qualified hematologists and medical doctors and shall also provide free  
40 of charge the necessary blood clotting products and ancillary infusion equipment  
41 necessary for the infusion of such blood clotting products;  
42  
43 b) A room exclusively for hemophilia patients; and  
44  
45 c) A clinical coagulation laboratory for the screening, diagnosis, provisional  
46 diagnosis and treatment of bleeding disorders or suspected bleeding disorders  
47 and such services shall be provided free of charge to all indigent patients.  
48

49 **SECTION 5. Funding.** – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this  
50 Act shall be sourced from the current budget of the DOH. Thereafter, the funds



1 necessary for the continuous implementation of this Act in the ensuing years shall be  
2 included in the General Appropriations Act.

3  
4 The funds given to the treatment facilities shall be used as follows:

- 5  
6 a) five percent (5%) shall be used for the maintenance of the rooms that will be  
7 used exclusively for hemophilia patients;  
8  
9 b) ninety percent (90%) shall be used exclusively for necessary blood clotting  
10 products and ancillary infusion equipment necessary for the infusion of such  
11 blood clotting products to hemophilia patients; and  
12  
13 c) five percent (5%) shall be used for blood screening of hemophilia patients.

14  
15 Each treatment facility established under this Act shall submit an annual report to the  
16 DOH on the utilization of the amount given to it.

17  
18 **SECTION 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within sixty (60) days from  
19 the approval of this Act, the Department of Health (DOH), in consultation with  
20 hemophilia groups and other relevant stakeholders, shall promulgate the  
21 Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) to carry out the provisions of this Act.

22  
23 **SECTION 7. Separability Clause.** – If for any reason, any provision of this Act is  
24 declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other parts or provisions hereof which are not  
25 affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

26  
27 **SECTION 8. Effectivity Clause.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
28 publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general  
29 circulation.

30  
31 **Approved,**