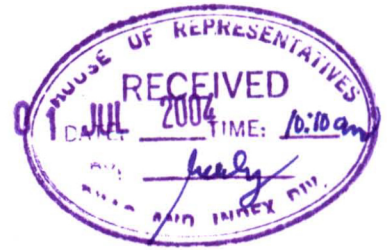


635

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. 635



Introduced by **Rep. Loretta Ann P. Rosales**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to repeal the decree that requires physicians and medical practitioners to report their treatment of any person for physical injuries to the nearest government health authority.

By compelling physicians to make such notification, Presidential Decree No. (PD) 169, later amended by the Aquino-era Executive Order No. (EO) 212, clearly violates the time-honored patient-doctor confidentiality of relationship.

The physician's oath commands him to treat any person in distress regardless of the latter's creed, color, religion or nationality. The patient's well-being and recovery, in the order of priorities, precede none. If compliance with PD 169 would jeopardize his patient's life, then a physician has all the right to protest against such intrusion.

A Marcos edict, PD 169 was part of the strongman's arsenal of Martial Law rules and regulations. By making the medical profession a virtual adjunct of the intelligence community, dissidents were tracked down, some yanked out of their sickbeds and thrown into torture chambers. It was such a heinous law that the late Jose Diokno, of the post-EDSA revolt's Human Rights Commission, included it among the first batch of Marcos-era laws that ought to be thrown to the burner. The Aquino government half-heartedly complied with EO 212.

Nevertheless, the law, even in its present form, still foists a chilling effect on medical practitioners. Many doctors refuse to go on mercy missions inside dissident-infested areas for fear of being accused of giving aid and comfort to the enemy. This compounds the already bleak health picture in the countryside where at least 200 towns do not have doctors.

Strengthening medical ethics bolsters the people's right to health.

Loretta Ann P. Rosales
REP. LORETTA ANN P. ROSALES
Akbayan! Party List Representative

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. 635

Introduced by Rep. Loretta Ann P. Rosales

AN ACT

STRENGTHENING MEDICAL ETHICS BY REPEALING PRESIDENTIAL DECREE No. 169, AS AMENDED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER No. 212, WHICH REQUIRES ANY ATTENDING PHYSICIAN OF ANY HOSPITAL, MEDICAL CLINIC, SANITARIUM OR OTHER MEDICAL ESTABLISHMENTS OR ANY MEDICAL PRACTITIONER WHO HAS TREATED ANY PERSON FOR SERIOUS OR LESS SERIOUS PHYSICAL INJURIES TO REPORT THE FACT OF TREATMENT

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

SECTION 1. Presidential Decree No. 169, as amended by Executive Order No. 212, providing that any attending physician of any hospital, medical clinic, sanitarium or other medical establishments or any medical practitioner who has treated any person for serious or less serious physical injuries shall report the fact of treatment promptly to the nearest government health authority, is hereby repealed.

SEC. 2. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days upon its approval.

Approved,