

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



THIRTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 846

Introduced by Hon. Aurelio "Oyie" Matias Umali

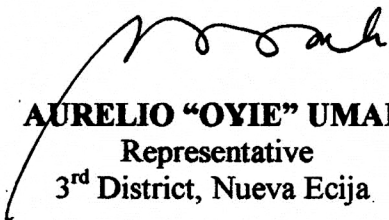
EXPLANATORY NOTE

This Bill seeks to provide subsidy to private hospitals and medical clinics which admit indigent patients for confinement and treatment under emergency cases, and appropriating funds therefore.

The Constitution in Section 15, Article II on the Declaration of Principles and State Policies recognizes the importance of health by stating that "The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them".

Innumerable reports, however, have shown that indigents in emergency situations being turned away by hospitals and medical clinics for the simple reason that they cannot afford the medical fees. Many expire as they are being transferred to government hospitals. The State, on one hand, recognizes the right of medical practitioners, nurses and hospitals, to earn their livelihood and upkeep. Private hospitals cannot be blamed for exacting admission fees. The State nevertheless must endeavor to abide by the constitutional mandate to provide free medical care to paupers or indigents who are usually not financially prepared for hospitalization in case of emergency or serious illness.

Taking into consideration, therefore, a mutually beneficial situation that would balance the interest of the poor and the medical institutions, this Bill is hereby proposed for consideration.


AURELIO "OYIE" UMALI
Representative
3rd District, Nueva Ecija

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AN ACT
PROVIDING SUBSIDY TO PRIVATE HOSPITALS AND CLINICS WHICH
ADMIT FOR CONFINEMENT AND TREATMENT INDIGENT PATIENTS
UNDER EMERGENCY CASES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE

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

SECTION 1. Any provision of law to the contrary notwithstanding hospital expenses of indigent patients admitted and confined in private hospitals and clinics under emergency cases shall be subsidized by the government.

For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall mean:

- a) "Indigent patient" shall refer to: (1) one with no visible income; or (2) one who has no means of support or livelihood; or (3) one with income or means of livelihood but insufficient for his subsistence and that of his family; or (4) one who has no third party or relative to assist him in his medical needs; or (5) a breadwinner whose illness forces him/her to stop temporarily or permanently from working to go on leave without pay; or (6) one with a total monthly income of not more than One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P1,500.00); and
- b) "Emergency" is to suffer from physical injury or serious illness which requires immediate medical attention, and failure to render treatment of which would result to the patient's death or physical incapacity.

SEC. 2. Any person who shall avail of the financial assistance granted under this Act shall apply for an indigent identification card with the Department of Social Welfare and Development upon submission of proof of indigency as provided under Section 1 hereof.

SEC. 3. The hospital concerned shall transmit monthly billings to the Department of Health of the total emergency admission fee extended to emergency patients under this Act, which shall include the relevant information regarding the patient and the services extended.

SEC. 4. The Department of Health, in coordination with the Department of Social Welfare and Development, shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 5. The sum necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be charged to the appropriation for the Department of Health under the General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such sum may be necessary for its continued implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 6. This Act shall take effect thirty (30) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) national newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.