

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1227

Introduced by Representatives
DIOSDADO MACAPAGAL ARROYO and GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO

AN ACT
PROMOTING ORGAN DONATION AWARENESS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

According to Article XIII, Section 12 of the 1987 Constitution:

"The State shall establish and maintain an effective food and drug regulatory system and undertake appropriate health, manpower development, and research, responsive to the country's health needs and problems."

The issue of organ donation has been the subject of heated debates amongst health advocates and pragmatists. The main reason this is so is the absence of an effective information campaign as to its relevance given the many developments in the realm of health. The DOH, in an attempt to diffuse the tension between opposing views, came up with Administrative Order 2008-0004 which is the "Revised National Policy on Kidney Transplantation from Living Non-Related Organ Donor and Its Implementing Structures" and its amendatory A.O. but it gave rise to more extensive discussions on the ethics of kidney transplantation. Much of the contention concentrated on the rampant sale of kidneys, especially among the poor.

This unabated practice among our poor manifests that very few Filipinos understand the importance of organ donation. This proposed legislation seeks to correct this by increasing awareness on organ donation by encouraging

instruction in this subject in secondary high school health classes. Encouraging this topic to be addressed and discussed in high school health classes, will ensure young Filipinos to be properly educated about organ donation and its benefits. Moreover, they will be made aware on the downside of improper and unethical organ donations in the hopes of suppressing it and in the long run, accepting organ donation as an effective means of saving more lives.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this proposed measure is earnestly requested.



DIOSDADO MACAPAGAL ARROYO
Second District, Camarines Sur



GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO
Second District, Pampanga

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

SECTION 1. *Health Education Regarding Organ Donation Awareness.* – Secondary Schools shall provide, as part of Health Education, instruction designed to promote awareness and to dispel the myths and misconceptions related to organ donation. This instruction shall be part of the health education course in the secondary schools curriculum. Any such course shall be taught by teachers specializing in health or science education.

SECTION 2. *Coordination.* – The Secretary of Education shall coordinate with the Secretary of Health in drafting the rules and regulation regarding the content of the organ donation awareness curriculum.

SECTION 3. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 4. *Separability Clause.* – If, for any reason, any provision of this Act is declared to be unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 5. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,