

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

**FIFTEENTH CONGRESS**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2293**

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Introduced by:

Rep. Godofredo V. Arquiza

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

General Geriatric Hospital is necessary for elderly patients in order for them to receive an exclusive primary care and wellness services that emphasizes on protection, promotion, and optimization of health along with the prevention of illness, and the alleviation of suffering in conjunction with diagnosis and treatment.

There is currently no General Geriatric Hospital that is in operation across the nation. General Geriatric Hospital will offer primary elderly care services that meet the Medical Institutes definition of safety-net provider by providing care regardless of their patients' ability to pay. A substantial share of the patient mix is would be made up of uninsured elderly individuals and recipients of medical assistance.

Approximately 50 percent of the elderly population have at least 1 chronic disease. These diseases account for a considerable rate of hospital admissions, prescriptions filled, and physician visits. Majority of this population have no capacity to pay for their health care. Chronic disease management programs in a Geriatric facility have the potential to improve outcomes for chronically ill patients. Geriatric Hospitals will provide wellness services that will strengthen the health care safety-net by expanding access to chronic disease management services for geriatric and medically underserved populations.

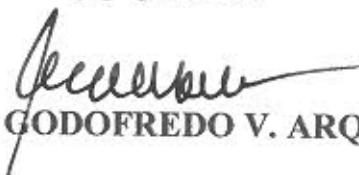
General Geriatric Hospital offering primary elderly care provide a medical home for medically underserved aging individuals, and are viable partners with the National Government to reduce health disparities. They provide a full range of health care services, including primary care, wellness services, and behavioral health care to the residents of rural and urban underserved communities. Because General Geriatric Hospital will be located in public housing developments, senior living arrangements, schools, and community centers, they will help remove barriers preventing access to care and are instrumental in addressing and eliminating the factors contributing to health disparities.

General Geriatric Hospital will offer wellness services that reinforce the medical home concept by providing a critical first level of care for populations living in rural areas with limited access to physicians and other primary care providers.

As new strategies for increasing health coverage are implemented, utilization of this kind of hospital offering both primary care and wellness services will help meet the increased demand arising the increasing number of the elderly population.

Elderly patients have a desperate need for primary care and wellness services, a need that continues. To meet that need, Geriatric Hospitals that will be established across the country will expanded their mission to focus on increasing access to primary care and wellness services of the medically underserved elderly populations, This hospitals will be the source of health care for elderly patients.

The goal of this Act seeks to establish a program that will give access to a stable source of funding for the construction and operation of General Geriatric Hospital further enabling them to expand primary care and wellness services for the elderly patients especially in the underserved communities, while reducing the level of health disparities that vulnerable elderly populations throughout our nation. It is the purpose of this Act to fund the development and operation of Geriartic Hospitals in Metro Manila and to provide comprehensive and accessible primary health care and wellness services to elderly population especially those living in medically underserved communities; and reduce the level of health disparities experienced by elderly population.

  
HON. GODOFREDO V. ARQUIZA

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**AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF GENERAL  
GERIATRIC HOSPITALS IN METRO MANILA**

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

**SECTION 1. Short Title.**

This Act may be cited as the 'General Geriatric Hospital Act of 2010'.

**SECTION 2. Definition of Terms.** – For the purposes of this Act, these terms are defined as follows:

'(1) *Geriatric* - The term 'geriatrics' means the branch of medicine that deals with the problems and diseases of older adults and aging, including chronic conditions and geriatric syndromes such as dementia, delirium, urinary incontinence, osteoporosis, falls or gait disorders, or sleep disorders.

'(2) *General Geriatric Hospital* - The term 'General Geriatric Hospital' means a medical institution for the elderly, managed by the Department of Health in coordination with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Local Government Units (LGU), physicians and nurses, that provides primary medical care or wellness services to elderly population associated with nationally qualified health centers, independent nonprofit health or social services agency.

`(3) *Medically Underserved Population* - The term 'medically underserved population' refers to the rate of elderly population which has no capacity to finance or pay for their medical needs.

`(4) *Vulnerable Elderly Population*- The term 'vulnerable elderly population' means a population of aging Filipinos that lacks access to adequate primary care or suffers from increased health disparities due to factors such as health, age, race, ethnicity, sex, insurance status, income level, or ability to communicate effectively.

`(5) *Elderly Behavioral Health Care Services* - The term 'elderly behavioral health care services' means health care related to aging Filipinos emotional health and well-being and consists of identifying, assessing, and defining mental health problems and developing a plan of care, which may include psychopharmacological management, education about specific mental illnesses, or basic counseling services that are furnished by qualified health care professionals.

`(6) *Comprehensive Primary Health Care Services* - The term 'comprehensive primary elderly health care services' means health care related to aging Filipinos and consisting of adult health and vital medical services that are furnished by physicians, physician assistants, nurses, other advanced practice nurses, or other qualified health care professionals. In addition to elderly primary care services, specific services may include--

- `(A) preventive health services;
- `(B) appropriate cancer screening;
- `(C) immunizations against vaccine-preventable diseases;
- `(D) screenings for elevated blood lead levels;
- `(E) screening for communicable diseases;
- `(F) cholesterol screenings;
- `(G) pediatric eye and ear screenings to determine the need for vision and hearing correction;
- `(H) emergency medical services;
- `(I) diagnostic laboratory and radiologic services;
- `(J) care navigation services; and

`(K) pharmaceutical services, as may be appropriate for each hospital.

`(7) *Wellness Services*- The term 'wellness services' means any health-related service or intervention, not including primary care, which is designed to reduce identifiable health risks and increase healthy behaviors intended to prevent the onset of disease or lessen the impact of existing chronic conditions by teaching more effective management techniques that focus on individual self-care and patient-driven decision-making. Specific services may include--

`(A) chronic disease self-management training;

`(B) health screenings relating to hypertension, diabetes, cancer, HIV, lead exposure, and other chronic conditions;

`(C) health and patient education;

`(D) immunizations against vaccine-preventable diseases;

`(E) outreach and home visiting services;

`(F) environmental health risk reduction services;

`(G) case management services;

`(H) interpretation and translation services;

`(I) weight control programs;

`(J) smoking cessation programs;

`(K) physical activity and fitness programs;

`(L) occupational safety and health; and

`(M) cognitive behavioral services.

### **SECTION 3. Establishment of General Geriatric Hospitals.**

`(a) *Authority To Establish General Geriatric Hospitals*- The Secretary of Health shall allocate fund for the cost of establishment and operation of General Geriatric Hospitals that meet the requirements of this section.

#### **`(b) *Use of Funds***

`(1) *In General*- Funds under this section may be used for the for establishment of General Geriatric Hospitals, management of hospital programs, for the payment of salaries for personnel, and for providing training

for the provision of required health services. Funds may also be used for construction or acquiring and leasing buildings and equipment (including the cost of amortizing the principle of, and paying interest on, loans for such buildings and equipment).

`(2) *Amount-* The amount of fund made in any fiscal year to a General Geriatric Hospitals shall be determined by the Health Secretary, taking into account--

`(A) the financial need of the General Geriatric Hospitals;

`(B) State, local, and other operational funding provided to the General Geriatric Hospitals; and

`(C) other factors as determined appropriate by the Health Secretary.

**‘(c) *Technical Assistance-***

`(1) *In General* - The Health Secretary shall establish a program through which the Secretary shall provide technical and other assistance to General Geriatric Hospitals to assist in meeting the requirements of this section. In determining appropriate providers to assist in offering technical assistance, the Secretary shall consider whether the provider has demonstrated the capacity to effectively address the unique needs of General Geriatric Hospitals.

`(2) *Technical Services* - Services provided under this section may include necessary technical and nonfinancial assistance, including fiscal and program management assistance, training in fiscal and program management, operational and administrative support, and the provision of information to General Geriatric Hospitals regarding the various resources available under this section and how those resources can best be used to meet the health needs of the communities that will be served by this hospital.

`(d) *Evaluation-* The Health Secretary shall develop and implement a plan for evaluating General Geriatric Hospitals, funded under this section. Such evaluations shall monitor and track its performance as the quality of the services they provide.

`(e) *Authorization of Appropriations-* For the purposes of carrying out this section, the Department of Health will submit to Congress for authorization of the budget to be appropriated for every Fiscal Year.

**SECTION 4. Separability Clause.**

If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the Act or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

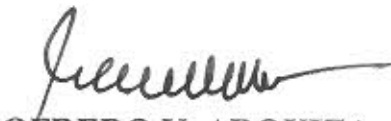
**SECTION 5. Repealing Clause.**

Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

**SECTION 6. Effectivity Clause.**

This Act shall take effect immediately after its approval.

Approved,

  
GODOFREDO V. ARQUIZA