

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

**FIFTEEN CONGRESS  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 4789**

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**Introduced by Representative DAVID L. KHO and Representative GODOFREDO V. ARQUIZA**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

**AN ACT CREATING THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR SENIOR CITIZENS  
AND AGING RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE DEVELOPMENT**

In less than 20 years, most of the world's aging population will belong to the developing world, with 60% belonging in Asia. The consequences of population aging will add challenges to the Philippines' health and socio-economic environment. The increase in human life expectancy is a result of successes in health technology (ex. vaccines, diagnostic tests, and drugs), public and environmental health (ex. sanitation and reduction of maternal and child mortality), political stability, food production and medical and rehabilitative care.

Since 1995, the total number of senior citizens (60 years and older) in the Philippines, based on the 2000 Census of Population and Housing, has grown at an average annual rate of 4.39% placing the elderly population at seven million in 2010 (from 4.6 million in 2000, accounting for 5.97% of the 2000 Philippine population) and expected to double in approximately 16 years.

In order to enhance a national program of geriatric healthcare, consistent with constitutional principle that the State shall "undertake appropriate health, manpower development, and research, responsive to the country's health needs and problems" and in implementation of R.A. 9994 "to train community-based health workers among senior citizens and health personnel to specialize in the geriatric care and health problems of senior citizens", this bill aims to create a National Institute for Senior Citizens and Aging Research and Knowledge Development that will contribute to national development and improvement of the quality of life of senior citizens and all Filipinos as they age.

The Institute shall be at the forefront of research (as it identifies and implements priority researches on the aging population), technological development and innovation essential in obtaining the societal goals of health for senior citizens.

The National Institute for Senior Citizens and Aging Research and Knowledge Development shall form part of the National Institutes of Health (nine (9) institutes at present) of the University of the Philippines Manila, the research arm of the Health Sciences Center of

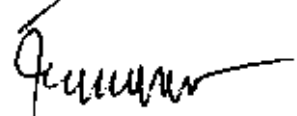
the UP System, established to support the national effort to improve the health of Filipinos by enhancing the country's capability for health research and development.

The National Institutes of Health of the UP Manila has the capacity to carry out many of the researches of the various government agencies and private sectors, including the pharmaceutical industry, through its various linkages, for commissioned or collaborative research, as it envisions itself to be the country's recognized authority on health research and development and be the key source of critical health information for national development in the Philippines and Southeast Asia.

In view of the foregoing considerations, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



DAVID L. KHO



GODOFREDO V. ARQUIZA

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**AN ACT CREATING THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR SENIOR CITIZENS  
AND AGING RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE DEVELOPMENT**

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

**SECTION 1. Short Title** - This Act shall be known as the "National Institute for Senior Citizens and Aging Research and Knowledge Development Act of 2011."

**SEC 2. Declaration of Policy** - Section 15, Article II of the 1987 Constitution provides that:

"The State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavour to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost. There shall be priority for the needs of the underprivileged, sick, elderly, disabled, women and children." The Constitution also provides that the State shall "undertake appropriate health, manpower development, and research, responsive to the country's health needs and problems."

Corollary to the above, under Sec. 5(c) Health of R.A. 9994 (The Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010), "The DOH, in coordination with local government units (LGUs), NGOs and POs for senior citizens, shall institute a national health program and shall provide an integrated health service for senior citizens. It shall train community-based health workers among senior citizens and health personnel to specialize in the geriatric care and health problems of senior citizens (underscoring supplied).

Further, senior citizens shall be empowered to achieve active ageing in a society for all ages through social protection and the development of policies, programs, projects, and services to promote their rights and welfare, implemented with or through LGUs, NGOs, POs, national government agencies and other members of civil society.

**SEC 3. Creation of the National Institute for Senior Citizens and Aging Research and Knowledge Development** – The National Institute for Senior Citizens and Aging Research and Knowledge Development, hereinafter referred to as the Institute on Aging, shall be established that will identify and implement priority researches on the aging population. It shall be a venue for knowledge development activities including evaluation, research and surveillance and the dissemination of research findings to be shared in clear language in accessible and practical formats with policy makers, NGOs representing the elderly, the private sector and the public at large. The Institute shall be at the forefront of research, technological development and innovation essential in obtaining the societal goals of health and quality of life for Senior Citizens.

The Institute on Aging shall form part of the National Institutes of Health of the University of the Philippines Manila, the research arm of the Health Sciences Center of the UP System,<sup>2</sup> established to support the national effort to improve the health of Filipinos by enhancing the country's capability for health research and development, presently composed of nine (9) institutes as follows:

1. Institute of Biotechnology and Molecular Biology
2. Institute of Child Health and Human Development
3. Institute of Clinical Epidemiology
4. Institute of Health Policy and Development Studies
5. Institute of Herbal Medicine
6. Institute of Human Genetics
7. Institute of Ophthalmology
8. Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences
9. Philippine National Ear Institute

The manner of conducting research will mostly be collaborative and multidisciplinary in nature (not hierarchical but interdisciplinary), reflective of the various components necessary to achieve active and successful aging of older adults.

Intramural researches within the UP System shall be guided by existing research and ethical guidelines of the University. Extramural researches, as for example, researches whose primary authors are not members of the University but seek collaboration with the Institute on Aging, shall also comply with the same guidelines. The University of the Philippines shall be the lead agency to centralize, implement and do research guided by national agenda with the support of the following, but not limited to, coordinating academic institutions/government agencies/NGOs concerned:

- Department of Science and Technology
  - Food and Nutrition Research Institute
  - Food and Drug Administration
  - National Academy of Science and Technology
- Department of Health
- Philippine College of Geriatric Medicine

- Medical Specialty Societies
- University of the Philippines System
  - Population Institute
  - School of Sociology
  - Dept of Psychology
  - College of Medicine
  - College of Law
  - School of Economics
- Other Colleges and Universities
- Senior Citizens Organizations

**SEC 4. GOAL AND OBJECTIVES** - The primary goal of the Institute on Aging shall be to contribute to national development and improvement of the quality of life of Senior Citizens and all Filipinos as they age, with the following set objectives:

1. Guide policy makers in the enactment of health laws, policies, and guidelines which improve delivery of quality health programs for Senior Citizens.
2. Contribute to the enhancement of medical knowledge on aging and geriatrics and improve the practices of health care professionals.
3. Implement research on essential national health issues and concerns on aging.
4. Lead in the formulation of national health research agenda on aging.
5. Disseminate information on healthy and active aging to the general public.

**SEC 5. TAX EXEMPTION AND OTHER PRIVILEGES** – Consistent with constitutional principles and the objectives of R.A. 9994 “to give full support to the improvement of the total well-being of the elderly and their full participation in society x x x” and in recognition of the role of the Institute on Aging on the improvement of the quality of life of Senior Citizens:

1. All donations, contributions, endowments and equipment and supplies imported by the Institute for its actual use and benefit shall be exempt from tax of any nature or kind;
2. The Institute shall be exempt from payment of taxes, charges and fees being imposed by the government, its political subdivisions and instrumentalities, including local government units for equipment purchased for its use; and
3. The Institute may request and receive assistance from the different agencies, bureaus, offices or instrumentalities of the government, including the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO), the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR), NGOs, private foundations, specialty societies, and international funding.

**SEC 6. APPROPRIATIONS** – Funds shall be appropriated as contribution of the National Government for the initial operations and maintenance of the Institute on Aging for the year 2011. Thereafter, the amount necessary for the continued operation and maintenance of the Institute shall be duly provided for, appropriated and released from the National Budget.

**SEC 7. IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS** - The Institute on Aging shall promulgate, within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Implementing Rules and Regulations for the effective and efficient implementation of the provisions of this Act, in consultation with all agencies/offices concerned.

**SEC 8. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE** – If any provision or part hereof, is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provisions not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

**SEC 9. EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE** – This Act shall take effect within fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,