

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS  
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 5673



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Introduced by Representatives Mariano Michael M. Velarde Jr. and Irwin C. Tieng (BUHAY Party List)

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

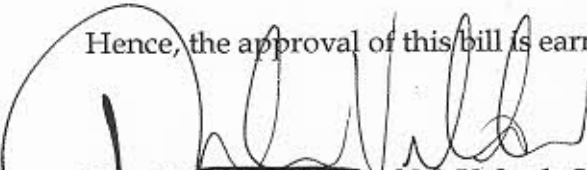
According to the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), in the Philippines, out of the 3,300 expected childhood cancer new cases each year, only 1,000 are cared for and the remaining 2,000 are neither diagnosed nor treated.

IARC adds that childhood cancers are often diagnosed at late stages, so that curative treatment is more difficult or out of reach, resulting in only 20% attaining long-term survival. Significantly, treatment decisions rely mainly on the financial capacities of the families in that among 1,000 children with cancer, 1 out of 5 receives treatment following local gold standards as paying patients.

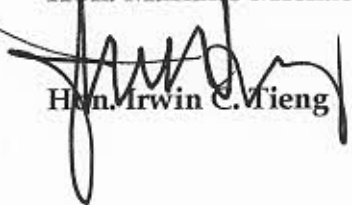
In our country, the Philippine Information Agency (PIA) reports that childhood cancer survival is only at a miserable rate of 10% to 30% compared to the 95% of developed countries. In other words, of the ten who are diagnosed, only two or three will most likely survive. In Metro Manila, the cancer registry records reveal that in three hospitals, 1 out of 8 children with cancer die every 3 hours. Verily, the PIA concludes that the children die because they are poor, and so unable to afford the high costs of medication and treatment.

In this light, pediatric cancer must be given special attention by boosting public awareness, advancing the medical research, and making sure that the Filipino children, especially the less fortunate ones, can avail of proper and adequate treatment.

Hence, the approval of this bill is earnestly requested.



Hon. Mariano Michael M. Velarde Jr.



Hon. Irwin C. Tieng

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AN ACT TO ADVANCE THE MEDICAL RESEARCH AND TREATMENTS ON PEDIATRIC CANCERS, ENSURE PATIENTS AND FAMILIES HAVE ACCESS TO THE CURRENT TREATMENTS AND INFORMATION REGARDING PEDIATRIC CANCERS, ESTABLISH A POPULATION-BASED NATIONAL CHILDHOOD CANCER DATABASE, AND PROMOTE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF PEDIATRIC CANCERS.

*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 "*Conquer Childhood Cancer Act of 2011*".

SEC. 2. Policy of the State. - It is the policy of the State to:

- (1) Encourage and expand the support for bio medical research programs of the existing National Cancer Institute-designated multicenter national infrastructure for pediatric cancer research;
- (2) Establish a population-based national childhood cancer database (the National Childhood Cancer Registry) to evaluate incidence trends of childhood cancers; and to enable the investigations of genetic epidemiology to aid in development of prevention strategies;
- (3) Provide informational services to patients and families affected by childhood cancer;
- (4) Support the development, construction, and operation of a comprehensive online public information system on childhood cancers and services available to families; and

(5) Establish a fellowship program in pediatric cancer research to foster clinical and translational research career development in pediatric oncologists in the early stages of their career.

SEC. 3. Pediatric Cancer Research and Awareness. -

(1) Pediatric Cancer Research. -

(a) Special Programs of Research Excellence in Pediatric Cancers. - The Secretary of the Department of Health (DOH), acting through the Philippine Children's Medical Center- Cancer Center (PCMC-CC), shall establish special programs of research excellence in the area of pediatric cancers. Such programs shall demonstrate a balanced approach to research cause, prognosis, prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of pediatric cancers that foster translation of basic research findings into innovative interventions applied to patients.

(b) Fellowship of Excellence in Pediatric Cancer Research. - The DOH Secretary, in cooperation with the PCMC-CC- supported pediatric cancer clinical trial groups, shall develop a grant mechanism for the establishment of Research Fellowships in Pediatric Cancer to support adequate numbers of pediatric focused clinical and translational investigators thereby facilitating continuous momentum of research excellence.

(2) National Childhood Cancer Registry. - The DOH Secretary shall award a grant for the operation of a population-based national childhood cancer database, the Philippine Cancer Control Program of the DOH, in cooperation with the DOH-Rizal Cancer Registry, Philippine Cancer Society Inc. - Manila Cancer Registry, and the PCMC-CC.

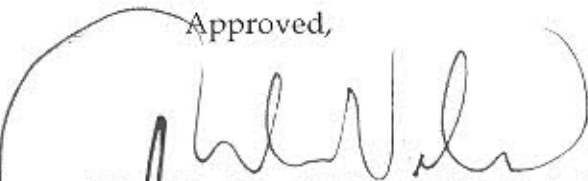
(3) Public Awareness of Pediatric Cancers and Available Treatments and Research. - The DOH Secretary shall award grants to recognized childhood cancer professional and advocacy organizations for the expansion and widespread implementation of activities to raise public awareness of currently available information, treatment, and research with the intent to ensure access to best available therapies for pediatric cancers.

SEC. 4. Authorization of Appropriations. - The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be appropriated from the General Appropriations Act, for each of fiscal years 2012 through 2016. Funds appropriated for this Act shall remain available until expended.

SEC. 5. Repealing Clause. - Any laws, decrees, ordinances or rules and regulations which are inconsistent with or contrary to the provision of this Act is hereby amended or repealed.

SEC. 6. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,



Hon. Mariano Michael M. Velarde Jr.



Hon. Irwin C. Heng