

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 5675



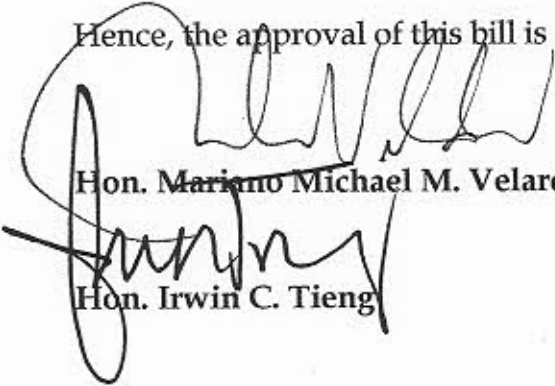
Introduced by Representatives Mariano Michael M. Velarde Jr. and Irwin C. Tieng
(BUHAY Party List)

EXPLANATORY NOTE

According to the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), about half of the Philippines' 88 million people live in rural areas. Poverty, noted IFAD, is most severe and most widespread in these areas and almost 80 per cent of the country's poor people live there. Because of this widespread poverty in the rural areas, a study in the U.S. National Library of medicine found that older people in the rural areas still adhere to their beliefs and traditions to alleviate the pain of toothache, particularly in the areas which cannot be reached by dentists. Also, as regards children, the International Association for Dental Research discovered that most 5-year-old or 85% of the children in the rural areas of the country had untreated caries or tooth decay in primary teeth; and that the 12-year-old children also had a high caries experience. Moreover, IADR observed that most of these children or 90% of them had gingivitis.

Significantly, the ubiquitous effects of dental health problems can be translated in economic terms in that every tooth affected means days loss of productivity, lost opportunities, recurring pain and severe discomfort as well as increased cost of dental treatments. Thus, addressing the dental health problems of our countrymen in the rural areas, where a great majority of impoverished Filipinos live, not only has beneficial social implications, but economic benefits as well.

Hence, the approval of this bill is earnestly requested.



Hon. Mariano Michael M. Velarde Jr.

Hon. Irwin C. Tieng

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 5675

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

AN ACT CREATING A POSITION OF RURAL DENTIST IN EVERY RURAL
HEALTH UNIT UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. There is hereby created a position of rural dentist in every rural health
unit under the supervision of the Department of Health.

SEC. 2. The Department of Health shall issue rules and regulations for the effective
implementation of this Act.

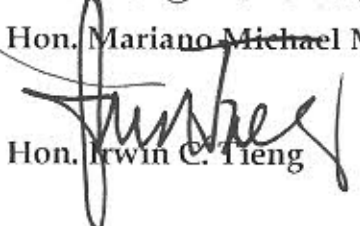
SEC. 3. The amount necessary for the effective implementation of this Act shall be
funded out of the appropriations of the Department of Health under Republic Act
Numbered Sixty-six hundred forty-two. Thereafter, such amounts as may be
necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the
annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 4. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two
(2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,



Hon. Mariano Michael M. Velarde Jr.



Hon. Irwin C. Tieng