

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Sixteenth Congress

First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 259



Introduced by: Hon. Angelina "Helen" D.L. Tan, M.D.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

According to the World Health Organization Global Tuberculosis Report 2012, the Philippines is on the top 22 high-burden tuberculosis (TB) countries in the world. It ranks the country at number nine out of 196 countries.

TB, an infection caused by mycobacterium tuberculosis that can be passed on to another person through tiny droplets spread by coughing and sneezing, is the number six leading cause of death in the country with 73 Filipinos dying everyday.

TB disease is highly contagious as each person with active TB can spread the disease to 10 other Filipinos each year. Presently, an estimated 200,000 to 600,000 Filipinos have active TB aside from the fact that an estimated 80 percent of them have latent TB.

Despite the efforts of government to improve the early detection and treatment of TB, the country's benchmark figure on the case detection rate, treatment success rate and cure rate are declining mainly because of various systemic and social factors, such as widespread poverty.

This measure seeks to eliminate the scourge of TB in the country by establishing a national plan for TB prevention, detection, treatment and control by increasing investment in tuberculosis control and enjoining the government, non-governmental organizations, and other concerned sectors to band together in putting an end to this nationwide epidemic.

It is hoped that through this measure, the country will not only be able to achieve but surpass its objective under the Global Plan on TB which seeks to reduce the prevalence and mortality of TB in the country.

In view of the foregoing, early passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


ANGELINA "HELEN" D.L. TAN, M.D.

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL PLAN FOR TUBERCULOSIS PREVENTION,
DETECTION, TREATMENT AND CONTROL AND PROVIDING RELIABLE DRUGS
SUPPLY AND FREE LABORATORY MONITORING SERVICE TO TB PATIENTS

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

SECTION 1. Title. - This Act shall be known as the "Comprehensive Tuberculosis Elimination Act".

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is hereby declared to be a policy of the State to support and expand efforts to eliminate tuberculosis in the country by increasing investment in tuberculosis control programs and calling upon the government, non-governmental organizations and other concerned sectors to commit to putting an end to the nationwide TB epidemic.

SEC 3. National Plan for Tuberculosis Prevention, Treatment and Control. - The Secretary of Health (hereinafter known as "Secretary") shall, in consultation with appropriate public and private entities, develop and implement a national plan to eliminate tuberculosis by considering the recommendations of said institutions and entities regarding the elimination of tuberculosis, addressing the development and application of new technologies, tying up with international organizations, concerned with tuberculosis control for possible funding and assistance and reviewing the extent to which progress has been made toward eliminating tuberculosis.

SEC. 4. Research, Demonstration Projects, Education and Training. -With respect to the prevention, detection, control, and elimination of tuberculosis, the Secretary shall, directly or through grants to public or non-profit private entities, carry out the following:

1. Research, with priority given to research concerning - (a) diagnosis and treatment of latent infection of tuberculosis; (b) strains of tuberculosis resistant to drugs; (c) cases of tuberculosis that affect certain populations; and (d) clinical trials, including a tuberculosis trials consortium;
2. Demonstration projects, including for the development of regional capabilities for the prevention, detection, control, and elimination of tuberculosis;
3. Public information and education programs;

4. Education, training and clinical skills improvement activities for health professionals;
5. Support of model centers to carry out activities under paragraphs (2) through (4);
6. Collaboration with local and international organizations and foreign countries in carrying out such activities;
7. Enhancement of basic and clinical research on tuberculosis; and
8. Research on the relationship between such disease and the HIV.

SEC. 5. *Education Programs.* - The Secretary, in coordination with the Commission on Higher Education, shall encourage faculty of schools of medicine, nursing or osteopathic medicine to intensify their program for information and education programs, including the development of curricula, to significantly increase the opportunities for students and for practicing providers to learn the principles and practices of preventing, detecting, managing, and controlling tuberculosis.

SEC 6. *Inclusion in the Curriculum.* - The Secretary, in coordination with the Secretary of the Department of Education, shall work for the inclusion of modules on the principles and practices of preventing, detecting, managing and controlling tuberculosis in the health curriculum of every public elementary and high school.

SEC. 7. *Media Campaign.* - The Secretary, in coordination with the Philippine Information Agency, shall encourage local media outlets, through a memorandum of agreement, to launch a full-blast media campaign regarding tuberculosis control, treatment and management, which shall be subject of print, television and radio broadcast and coverage.

SEC. 8. *Report.* - The Secretary shall annually prepare and submit to the Committee on Health of the Senate and of the House of Representatives, a report on the activities carried out under this Act.

SEC. 9. *Rules and Regulations.* - The Secretary shall formulate rules and regulations in order to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 10. *Appropriations.* - The sum necessary for the effective implementation of this Act shall be taken from the appropriations of the Department of Health.

SEC. 11. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision or part hereof, is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law of the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SEC. 12. *Repealing Clause.* - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the provision of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SEC. 13. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,