

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

**SIXTEENTH CONGRESS**  
*First Regular Session*

**HOUSE BILL NO. 788**



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Introduced by Representative Harlin Cast. Abayon

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#### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This bill seeks to protect and promote the health of the people, pursuant to the constitutional mandate as stated in Article II (2), Section 15 of the Constitution which reads:

"SEC. 15. The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them. "

Past experience has shown that military operations, whether the encounter is between the military and communist insurgents, or between government troops and military rebels, or during saturation drives or "zonings" conducted by the police, has left great civilian casualties. It is, thus, only proper that our government provides adequate help and support to the innocent individuals unfortunately caught and injured in the crossfire or police dragnet. At present, there is no law, which provides any form of aid or help to these innocent victims.

This measure was previously filed by Senator Manny Villar in the 15<sup>th</sup> Congress. The immediate approval and passage of this bill is urgently sought now in the 16<sup>th</sup> Congress.

  
**HARLIN CAST. ABAYON**  
Representative  
First District of Northern Samar

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**AN ACT**  
**PROVIDING FOR FREE MEDICINE AND OTHER BASIC MEDICAL SUPPLIES**  
**TO ANY PRIVATE PERSON OR INDIVIDUAL INJURED OR WOUNDED**  
**DURING A MILITARY OR GOVERNMENT OPERATION**

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

**SECTION 1. Free Medicine and Medical Supplies.** -Any private person or individual who shall have been wounded, or, in any way injured during or on the occasion of a military operation or activity or any government operation of a military operation or activity or any government operation shall be entitled to free medicine and other medical supplies necessary for the injury or wound at any government or government- owned or controlled hospital or clinic: Provided, the total cost of such medicine or medical supplies shall not exceed One thousand pesos (P1 ,000,00) for each individual.

**SEC. 2. Definition.** -The following terms shall mean:

- a. Private person or individual - Any citizen of the Republic of the Philippines;
- b. Wound -Any open flesh;
- c. Injury - Any other damage to the body whether internal or external, including, but not limited to, fractures, sprains, concussions, bruises and other bodily injuries;
- d. Medicine - Any drug or medication as approved and licensed by the Bureau of Food and Drugs for sale and distribution in the country;
- e. Medical Supplies - Any supply, such as bandages, sutures and other similar items deemed necessary for medical treatment;
- f. Military or government operation or activity - Any activity or operation, of whatever nature, or for whatever purpose, undertaken by the Armed Forces of the Philippines, or any other military or para- military service, such as "saturation drives," and other operations.

SEC. 3. Coordination - The Secretary of National Defense, the Secretary of Health, the Secretary of Social Welfare and Development, in consultation with the Administrators of the different government hospitals and clinics shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 4. Sourcing. - The medicine and medical supplies granted by the Act shall be paid for out of the savings of the different departments of the government mentioned in the preceding Section.

SEC. 5. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect immediately upon its publication hereof.

Approved,