

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **2614**



Introduced by **BAYAN MUNA**
Representatives NERI J. COLMENARES and CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE

AN ACT
GRANTING FIFTY PERCENT (50%) DISCOUNT
TO CHILDREN SIX (6) YEARS OLD AND BELOW
ON ALL MEDICAL SERVICES IN GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines ranks 86th among 190 countries with the highest mortality rate for children below five years old. According to the 2008 United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), an average of 32 Filipino children (per 1,000 live births) die before they reach the age of five. Said data almost estimates the 2008 National Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS) of 34 Filipino children (per 1,000 live births) who die before reaching the age of five years. Throughout the world, more than 27,000 children under the age of five die everyday mostly from mostly preventable causes.

Available data from the Department of Health reveal that infectious diseases still account for more than half of the 10 leading causes of child mortality across three different age groups (1 to 4 years, 5 to 9 years, and 10 to 14 years old).

However, most of these diseases that afflict young Filipinos are all preventable and treatable in nature, if only they can access health care services. The situation is made worse by the chronic unevenness of economic resources and opportunities for social mobility. In the process, many succumb to illness because they cannot afford medication and hospital expenses, let alone basic provisions such as food.

An average hospital bill amounts to three times that of a minimum monthly salary based on National Capital Region (NCR) standards. Likewise, according to the Health Alliance for Democracy (HEAD), sixty percent (60%) of Filipinos have no access to health care at all. The government health budget has not increased significantly in many years.

The bill seeks to address the medical needs of children coming from indigent families by mandating a fifty percent (50%) discount on all medical services in all government hospitals in the country. This measure likewise seeks to lower infant and child mortality rate as a form of immediate relief to the majority of underprivileged and health-deprived Filipino children.

The staggering rate of child mortality and state of children remain a challenge that needs to be addressed. The future of this nation rests on the chances of survival of our young generation.

Immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



Rep. NERI J. COLMENARES
Bayan Muna Party-List



Rep. CARLOS SAGAMI T. ZARATE
Bayan Muna Party-List

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Sec. 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as "Children's Medical Services Discount Act of 2013."

Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is the policy of the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.

Sec. 3. *Definition of Terms.* - The following terms as used in this Act shall mean the following:

- a. "Hospitals" - are those facilities defined under Section 2 of R.A. 4226 "An Act Requiring The License Of All Hospitals In The Philippines And Authorizing The Bureau of Medical Services To Serve As The Licensing Agency." This is defined as a place devoted primarily to the maintenance and operation of facilities for diagnosis, treatment and care of individuals suffering from illness, disease, injury or deformity, or in need of obstetrical or other medical and nursing care. The term "hospital" shall also be construed as any institution, building or place where there are installed beds or cribs or bassinets for twenty-four hour use or longer by patients in the treatment of diseases, diseased condition, injuries, deformities or abnormal physical and dispensaries, and such other means by which they may be designated.
- b. "National Government Hospitals" refer to all Department of Health retained hospitals.
- c. "Medical Services" refer to services provided by the hospital or licensed physician in the treatment of diseases, diseased condition, injuries, deformities or abnormal physical and dispensaries, and such other means by which they may be designated.

Sec. 4. *Discounts for children six (6) years old and below.* A fifty percent (50%) discount on medical services fees shall be granted to children 6 years old and below by national government

hospitals where they are confined anywhere in the country, without prejudice to their right in availing of the other medical assistance given by the government. Provided, that the joint annual net income is not exceeding one hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00) annually.

Sec. 5. *Implementing Agencies.* It shall be the duty of the Department of Health (DOH) to issue the necessary rules and regulations to carry out the objectives of this Act.

Sec. 6. *Appropriations.* The national government shall appropriate such amount as may be necessary to carry out the provisions and objectives of this Act.

Sec. 7. *Separability Clause.* If any portion or provision of this Act is declared void or unconstitutional, the remaining portions or provisions hereof shall not be affected by such declaration.

Sec. 8. *Repealing Clause.* Any provision of law or regulations inconsistent herewith is hereby repealed, revoked or modified accordingly.

Sec. 9. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,