

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City
SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session
House Bill No. **3259**



Introduced by **Hon. Sol Aragon**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article 2, Section 15, provides:

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

Well-woman visits are the foundation on which women's preventive care is built. Such visits include not only specific screening tests, but also a medical history, physical examination, evaluation and counseling, and, as indicated, vaccinations.

Over the past 20 years, it has become clear that 'one size does not fit all' when it comes to prevention. Although a 30-year-old woman without risk factors for cervical cancer may only need a Pap test with HPV co-testing every 5 years, the same woman would need more frequent screening if she were infected with HIV or had a history of cervical cancer precursors.

It is only after taking a medical history and evaluating and counseling a patient that a physician can make patient-specific recommendations for screening tests, vaccinations, preventive medications, and other preventive services.

Well-woman visits facilitate increased access to health care that is shown to identify chronic disease risk factors, promote well-being, and decrease the likelihood or delay the onset of a targeted disease or condition.

Women are less likely than men to receive aggressive diagnosis and treatment for various diseases. Women are more likely than men to have forgone needed health care due to cost.

This bill mandates the Department of Health to promote preventive health practices among women.


HON. SOL ARAGONES
Representative, 3rd District of Laguna

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1 **AN ACT**
2 **TO PROVIDE FOR A NATIONAL PUBLIC OUTREACH AND**
3 **EDUCATION CAMPAIGN TO RAISE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF**
4 **WOMEN'S PREVENTIVE HEALTH**

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

5 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This shall be known as the “Women's
6 Preventive Health Awareness Campaign Act.”

7 SECTION 2. *Women's Preventive Health Awareness Campaign.* – The
8 Department of Health shall provide for the planning and implementation of a
9 national public outreach and education campaign to raise public awareness,
10 including provider awareness, of women's preventive health. Such campaign
11 shall include the media campaign under Section 3 and the website under Section
12 5 and shall provide for the dissemination of information that—

13 A. describes the guidelines for women's preventive services, including
14 recommendations on cervical cancer prevention;

1 B. promotes well-woman visits for health assessments which include
2 screenings, evaluations, counseling, immunizations, and prenatal
3 visits, as appropriate;

4 C. explains the women's preventive service programs of the government
5 and other preventive services that may be availed of from private
6 health institutions;

7 SECTION 3. *Media Campaign.* – Not later than 1 year after the date of
8 the enactment of this section, as part of the campaign under Section 2, the
9 Department of Health shall establish and implement a national media campaign.

10 SECTION 4. *Requirements of the Media Campaign.* - The campaign
11 implemented under Section 3 —

12 A. shall disseminate information about the updated guidelines for
13 women's preventive services described in Section 2A, promote well-
14 woman visits described in Section 2B, and provide information on the
15 women's preventive services described in Section 2C; and

16 B. may include the use of television, radio, Internet, and other
17 commercial marketing venues.

18 SECTION 5. *Website.* - As part of the campaign under Section 2, the
19 Department of Health shall, in consultation with private sector experts or
20 through contract with a private entity including a medical association or non-
21 profit organization, maintain and update an Internet website to provide
22 information and resources about the updated guidelines for women's preventive
23 services described in Section 2A, promote well-woman visits, and provide
24 information on the women's preventive services described in Section 2C.

1 SECTION 6. *Appropriations.* – Such sums as maybe necessary for the
2 implementation of this Act is hereby appropriated.

3 SECTION 7. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act or the
4 application of such provision to any person or circumstance is declared invalid,
5 the remainder of the Act or the application of such provision to other persons or
6 circumstances shall not be affected by such declaration.

7 SECTION 8. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or
8 issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or
9 regulation contrary to or inconsistent with this Act is hereby repealed, modified,
10 or amended accordingly.

11 SECTION 9. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15)
12 days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Adopted,