

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

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3610

Introduced by
OFW Family Party-List Representative ROY V. SEÑERES

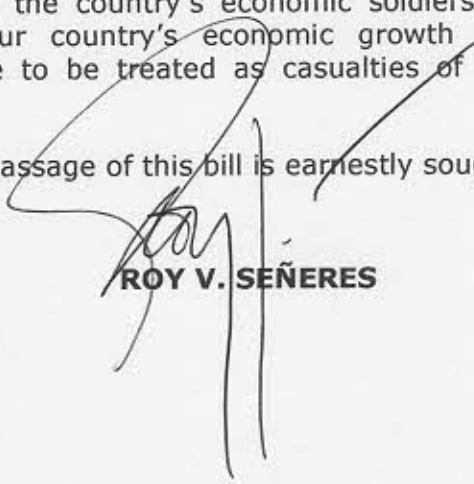
EXPLANATORY NOTE

Anyone who has ever had to deal with cancer or kidney disease knows the staggering financial burdens the disease imposes on both the patients and their families. These diseases have claimed thousands of lives and amounting to billions of pesos in healthcare and treatment cost for chemotherapy and dialysis.

In the Philippines, cancer ranks third in leading causes of morbidity and mortality after communicable diseases and cardiovascular diseases. At present, cancer prevention consciousness is low and most cancer patients seek consultation only at advanced stages. And patients with end-stage renal disease are at increased overall risk for cancer.

This bill aims to establish a financial program to help and assist underprivileged cancer or kidney patients including overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) afflicted with the disease to help them cope-up from the staggering financial burden that they have to bear. OFWs who are afflicted with these diseases are considered the country's economic soldiers for their invaluable contribution to our country's economic growth and development and therefore deserve to be treated as casualties of war against poverty.

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


ROY V. SEÑERES



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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A FREE MEDICAL AND HOSPITALIZATION
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR THE POOR AND FOR OVERSEAS
FILIPINO WORKERS (OFWs) WHO ARE AFFLICTED WITH CANCER
OR KIDNEY DISEASE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. **Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “Free Assistance Program for the Poor and Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) with Cancer or Kidney Disease Act of 2013.”

SEC. 2. **Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby the policy of the state to promote the right to health and well-being of the people and to adopt a system of effecting the delivery of free health services to those who have less life and overseas Filipino workers afflicted with cancer and kidney ailments.

SEC. 3. **Establishment of Free Medical and Hospitalization Assistance Program.** – There is hereby established a free medical and hospitalization assistance program, hereinafter referred to as the “Program”, to be administered by the Department of Health (DOH) through its Regional Medical Centers, Specialized Hospitals and Institutes for Disease Prevention and Control.

SEC. 4. **Eligible Beneficiaries.** –The program shall be limited to eligible beneficiaries who are considered indigents under the National Household Targeting System (NHTS) and overseas Filipino workers who are afflicted with cancer or kidney disease, to be identified by the DOH in coordination and consultation with DSWD, POEA and OWWA.

SEC. 5. **Appropriations.** – There is hereby appropriated the sum of One Hundred Million Pesos (Php100,000,000.00) to fund the initial budgetary requirements of this Act. Thereafter, the amount necessary to implement the provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 6. **Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of the Department of Health (DOH) in coordination with the Secretary of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the Administrator of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) and the Administrator of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 7. **Separability Clause.** – If any provision or part of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 8. **Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, ordinances, rules and regulations and other issuances or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 9. **Effectivity Clause.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,