



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Quezon City, Metro Manila

Sixteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **3628**

Introduced by Honorable Herminia B. Roman

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to establish a national health program to deliver health services to remote rural areas with insufficient health stations, to provide the people in these areas better access to health services.

Section 11, Article XIII of the 1987 Constitution, states:

"The State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost. There shall be priority for the needs of the under-privileged, sick, elderly, disabled, women, and children. The State shall endeavor to provide free medical care to paupers."

Despite the government's efforts to bring health care closer to Filipinos by implementing various health programs and providing health insurance coverage, disparities in health outcome still persist. Primary health services remain inaccessible to majority of our population particularly in rural and remote areas. Health inequity remains a foremost health issue in the Philippines, and as such, a national program to deliver health services in these areas is necessary to achieve total health development.

This bill aims to provide health services to people in remote areas or far flung places where health services are inaccessible. Under this measure, mobile health clinics will be utilized and deployed for the delivery of health services in remote areas in the country.

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

Herminia B. Roman
HERMINIA B. ROMAN



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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL OUTREACH PROGRAM FOR
HEALTH AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the
“*National Health Outreach Program Act.*”

SEC. 2. *Statement of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavour to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost. Towards this end, the State shall establish a national program to deliver health services to areas with no or insufficient health station or in places with limited and difficult access to health services, particularly in remote rural communities, to provide the people in such areas better access to primary health care.

SEC. 3. *National Health Outreach Program.* – The Department of Health (DOH) shall, in coordination and consultation with the local government units, and the Department of Social Welfare and Development, establish a national outreach program hereinafter referred to as the Program, to deliver basic health services to the following areas:

- a) remote rural areas or barangays with no existing health centers or health stations;
- b) barangays with insufficient or limited health services; and
- c) barangays affected by calamity, disaster or other emergency situations which resulted to nondelivery of health services.

SEC. 4. *Mobile Health Clinics.* – Under the Program, the DOH shall deploy mobile health clinics in areas enumerated in Section 3 to provide free medical and dental services such as diagnostic examinations, primary health care consultations, pre-natal consultations, dental care, immunizations, basic life support, drug distribution, first aid treatment of injuries, and treatment and control of common diseases. Every mobile clinic shall have the following personnel:

- a) a duly licensed physician;
- b) a registered nurse;
- c) a medical technologist; and
- d) a dentist.

The personnel of the mobile health clinics shall also conduct information dissemination on the different health programs of the DOH, grant medical

assistance to qualified applicants under the Program if any, and facilitate the access of patients to higher level of health care.

SEC. 5. *Priority Areas.* – The DOH in consultation with the local government units and the Department of Social Welfare and Development, shall identify priority areas where the mobile health clinics shall be deployed. It shall also determine the length of their stay in their respective duty area: *Provided*, That mobile health clinics shall be deployed regularly in identified priority areas to render health services until permanent access to health services in such areas shall have been established or restored.

SEC. 6. *Appropriations.* – The amount of One hundred million pesos (P100,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated for the initial implementation of this Act which shall be charged to the appropriations of the Department of Health. Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA).

SEC. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days after the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Health shall issue such rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 8. *Annual Review.* – The Department of Health shall conduct an annual review of the Program and shall submit annual recommendations and reports to both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 9. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not

affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 10. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules and regulations, and issuances, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 11. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,