

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

H. No. 3709

Introduced by Representative Estrellita "Ging" B. Suansing

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Health concerns that are generally associated with women in the 21st century include, but are not limited to, menopausal and peri-menopausal transition, cervical or breast cancer, osteoporosis; and the issues on anti-aging, which includes the quest for longevity.

Hence, health assessment and annual or regular examination which are fundamental parts of medical care and considered as vital in popularizing preventive practices should be prioritized by the government. The concept is crucial as it endeavors to recognize risk factors for diseases which would lead to proper identification of medical conflicts. Ideally, regular assessment or examination should include screening, evaluation and counseling, as well as immunizations based on age and risk factors.

A woman's annual visit for example to her doctor would provide her with an excellent opportunity to be counseled about maintaining a healthy lifestyle and minimizing health risk.

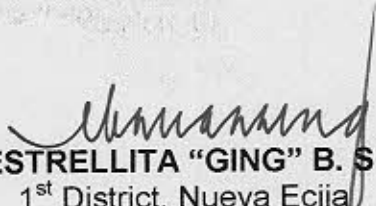
Through the years, it has been discovered that age and risk on women pertaining to certain diseases vary in their level of seriousness and capacity to be treated. Thus, it is imperative that the public, together with the medical world, to understand the importance of preventive practice; thereby enabling at risk women of all ages, to seek medical assistance at the earliest opportunity or even before that. In essence, the bill aims to facilitate increased access to women health care by improving the their well-being and minimizing their inclination to develop a particular disease or condition

The purpose of this bill is in accord with Article 2, Section 15 of the 1987 Constitution which provides;

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

It is also the intention of this bill to raise public awareness on the importance of health preventive practices. In the process, there would be a campaign that shall involve the media in the dissemination of information as provided in Section 3 of the bill. Such will entail the creation of a website to be maintained and updated by the Department of Health (DOH), in consultation with private sector experts, or through a contract with a private entity including a medical association or non-profit organization.

Be that as it may, we can never quantify the role and importance of women in our society. Hence, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


Rep. ESTRELLITA "GING" B. SUANSING
1st District, Nueva Ecija

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H. Res. No. 3709

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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR A NATIONAL PUBLIC OUTREACH AND EDUCATION
CAMPAIGN TO RAISE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF WOMEN'S PREVENTIVE
HEALTH

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This shall be known as the "Women's Preventive Health Awareness Campaign Act."

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

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

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

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

SECTION 3. *Media Campaign.* - Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, as part of the campaign under Section 2, the Department of Health shall establish and implement a national media campaign.

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

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

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

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

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

SECTION 7. *Separability Clause.* If any provision or part thereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the Act or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

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

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

Approved,