

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4280



Introduced by: Hon. Angelina "Helen" D.L. Tan, M.D.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

It was recently reported that nearly nine out of 10 Filipinos are suffering from tooth decay (The Philippine Star, 87.4% of Pinoys suffering from tooth decay, 11 January 2014)

According to the Department of Health, tooth decay or dental carries and periodontal diseases are the two most common health problems in the country. The DOH said the Philippines lags far behind other countries in the Western Pacific region when it comes to oral health. The country is next to Brunei as the worst in oral health

Dental carries are commonly known as tooth decay and cavity, while periodontal disease is a condition where the tissue – gums, deeper supporting tissue and bone – around a tooth or teeth become infected and swollen.

It is unfortunate that dental or oral health seems to be among the least prioritized health-related concerns in the country, as a staggering 70 percent of Filipinos do not visit their dentists regularly. Of those who visit their dentists, 10 percent go to private dental clinics and 20 percent visit government clinics.

In 2005, problems related with oral hygiene and malady also account for the highest of incidence of absenteeism among school children, according to the records of the Department of Education.

In view thereof and in line with the Constitution's mandate of protecting and promoting the right to health of the people (Article II, Section 15) and to undertake appropriate health human resource development responsive to the country's needs and problems (Articles XIII, Section 12), this measure proposes the provision of dental service in each of the rural health units of the country.

For this reason, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


ANGELINA "HELEN" D.L. TAN, M.D.
4th District, Quezon

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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR A DENTAL SERVICE IN EVERY RURAL HEALTH UNIT THROUGHOUT
THE COUNTRY AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is the policy of the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people. Towards this end, it shall promote preventive dental healthcare and provide effective services to address oral health problems in the rural areas.

SEC. 2. *Provision of a Dental Service.* - There is hereby provided a dental service in *every* rural health unit throughout the country. It shall be provided by a public health dentist and a trained Barangay Health Worker who will serve as a dental aide.

SEC. 3. *Rules and Regulations.* - The Department of Health, in coordination with the Department of Interior and Local Government, shall issue rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 4. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official Gazette and in any newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,