

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



SIXTEENTH CONGRESS,
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **4463**

Introduced by Representative **MARIANO MICHAEL M. VELARDE, JR.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

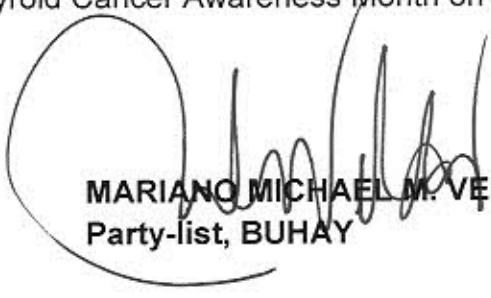
The Philippine Constitution provides that "the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people, and instill health consciousness among them.

According to the Department of Health, thyroid cancer is the 6th leading cancer in the Philippines as of 2010 and almost 95% of thyroid cancer in the Philippines are well differentiated carcinoma, and are highly curable by appropriate surgery alone. However, radioactive iodine is the main mode of treatment for persistent or metastatic lesions.

Patients affected by this type of cancer if not given the needed treatment like surgery and radioactive iodine live with constant fear of death like found with other cancer patients.

For the purposes of public education and awareness campaign, and to effect the purpose of this Act, a national information campaign including, but not limited to, local health agencies and clinics, physicians, health care facilities, pharmacies, libraries, senior citizen centers, and other community-based outreach programs and organizations to instill awareness among the public about thyroid cancer disease, to generate full support for the special needs of thyroid cancer survivors affected by this disease from both public and private sectors.

Due to the foregoing reasons, there is an urgent need to pass this bill to coincide with the International Celebration of Thyroid Cancer Awareness Month on September 2014.



MARIANO MICHAEL M. VELARDE, JR.
Party-list, BUHAY

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 4463

Introduced by Representative MARIANO MICHAEL M. VELARDE, JR.

**“AN ACT DECLARING THE 4TH WEEK OF SEPTEMBER OF EVERY YEAR
AS THE “NATIONAL THYROID CANCER AWARENESS WEEK”**

WHEREAS, the Philippine Constitution, provides that “the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people, and instill health consciousness among them.

WHEREAS, according to the Department of Health, thyroid cancer is the 6th leading cancer in the Philippines as of 2010. The incidence is three times more in females than that in males. Thyroid cancer is the most common cancer of women at 15-24 years of age.

WHEREAS, the warning signals are a hard mass or nodules in the anterior neck; rapid enlargement of a long-standing goiter in older patients; cervical lymph node enlargement; hoarseness, difficulty of swallowing; and difficulty of breathing associated with goiter.

WHEREAS, early detection includes fine needle aspiration biopsy of solitary nodules, or of unusually prominent, hard or rapidly growing nodules in multinodular goiter.

WHEREAS, almost 95% of thyroid cancer in the Philippines are well differentiated carcinoma, and are highly curable by appropriate surgery alone. However, radioactive iodine is the main mode of treatment for persistent or metastatic lesions.

WHEREAS, patients affected by this type of cancer if not given the needed treatment like surgery and radioactive iodine live with constant fear of death like found with other cancer patients..

WHEREAS, for the purposes of public education and awareness campaign, and to effect the purpose of this Act, a national information campaign including, but not limited to, local health agencies and clinics, physicians, health care facilities, pharmacies, libraries, senior citizen centers, and other community-based outreach programs and organizations to instill awareness among the public about thyroid cancer disease, to generate full support for the special needs of thyroid cancer survivors affected by this disease from both public and private sectors

WHEREAS, The Department of Health (DOH) and the Philippine Thyroid Council (PTC) will serve as the focal agencies for the purposes of commemorating this event to the health sector and the public.

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to pass this Act to coincide with the International Celebration of Thyroid Cancer Awareness Month on September 2014.

WHEREAS, this Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.