

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 4657



Introduced by HON. EUFRANIO "FRANNY" C. ERIGUEL, M.D.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

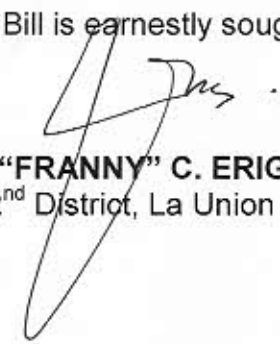
The Philippine Constitution provides that the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people, and instill health consciousness among them.

According to the Department of Health, thyroid cancer is the sixth leading cancer in the Philippines in 2010. Almost 95% of thyroid cancer in the Philippines is well differentiated carcinoma, which is highly curable by appropriate surgery alone. However, for persistent or metastatic lesions, radioactive iodine is the main mode of treatment. 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 patients of other types of cancers.

The Thyroid Cancer Survivors' Association, a non-profit organization based in the United States with support groups worldwide including in the Philippines, celebrated the Thyroid Cancer Awareness week in September since 2000. In 2003, the organization expanded this worldwide observance to the whole month of September. This celebration is participated in by organizations in 56 countries worldwide, including the Philippines.

In this regard, this humble Representation would like to establish one week in September as National Thyroid Awareness Week in the Philippines. For the purposes of public education and awareness, a national information campaign – which would include local health agencies and clinics, physicians, health care facilities, pharmacies, libraries, senior citizen center, and other community-based outreach programs and organization – is needed to instill consciousness among the public on thyroid cancer disease and to generate full support for the needs of thyroid cancer patients and survivors.

Due to the foregoing, the passage of this Bill is earnestly sought.


EUFRANIO "FRANNY" C. ERIGUEL, M.D.
2nd District, La Union

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 4657

Introduced by HON. EUFRANIO "FRANNY" C. ERIGUEL, M.D.

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

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

SECTION 1. Title. – This Act shall be known as "National Thyroid Awareness Week Act of 2014."

SEC. 2. National Holiday. – The 4th week of September of every year is hereby declared "National Thyroid Awareness Week," so as to coincide with the International Celebration of Thyroid Awareness Month.

SEC 3. Implementing Agency. – 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 to the public.

SEC. 4. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days upon its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,