



Sixteenth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **5403**

Introduced by Honorable Francisco A. Calalay, Jr.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to mandate the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (Philhealth) to increase the dialysis treatment coverage of members of the National Health Insurance Program to ninety sessions per year.

Dialysis is a process by which dissolved substances are removed from the body of a patient by diffusion from one fluid compartment to another across a semi-permeable membrane. This process is necessary for persons whose kidneys are not able to adequately filter the blood. Patients with kidney failure have a chance to live a productive life when they are able to undergo continuous dialysis treatment as prescribed by physicians.

It must be noted that end stage renal failure is a common disease among Filipinos. The cost of dialysis treatment and medicines for this illness is expensive such that most patients could no longer afford to undergo continuous dialysis treatment due to their incapacity to pay the costs. To ease the financial burden of patients suffering from any illness, including end stage renal failure, our government had provided financial assistance for their health needs through Philhealth.

Presently, under Philhealth Circular No. 6, Series of 2006, the dialysis treatment coverage is only limited to 45 days. The circular, with the subject "*Philhealth Benefits for Dialysis*," states in part:

"xxx

3. *The rule on 45-day allowance per year applies to dialysis benefits, and for this reason, benefits availment including dialysis for each member/patient shall not exceed forty-five (45) days in a year.*

xxx

xxx

xxx."

In view of the foregoing, there is a real need to increase the present coverage of Philhealth for dialysis treatment from the existing 45-day allowance to 90-day allowance per year. This proposal will surely lessen the financial burden of Filipinos undergoing continuous dialysis.

Hence, the approval of this bill is earnestly recommended.


FRANCISCO A. CALALAY, JR.

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**AN ACT
MANDATING THE PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION
TO INCREASE THE DIALYSIS TREATMENT COVERAGE OF
MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM TO
NINETY SESSIONS PER YEAR**

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

SECTION 1. The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (Philhealth) shall provide coverage for dialysis treatment of members of the National Health Insurance Program up to ninety (90) sessions per year.

SEC. 2. Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the President of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation shall, in coordination with the Secretary of Health, issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 3. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,