

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill no. **5829**



Introduced by Representatives Leni Gerona-Robredo

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article II, Section 15, of the Constitution states:

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

The current situation in the Philippines shows an alarming rate of Filipinos who are suffering from breast cancer. According to a news report by GMA News, the Philippines currently has the most number of breast cancer cases in Asia. The report further states the Philippine Society of Medical Oncology in 2012 estimated 3 out of 100 Filipino women will contract breast cancer before age 75 and 1 out of 100 will die before age 75. This is a cause of concern for the status of health in the country.

The start of the campaign for Breast Cancer Awareness began when an American named Susan Komen passed away because of the disease in 1970. Her brother, believing that awareness of the disease might have changed his sister's fate, founded the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation in honor of Susan Komen in 1982. In October 1983, the foundation held the first Race for a Cure in order to raise awareness for Breast Cancer. Until today, this race is held on October of every year.

In line with this, the World Health Organization (WHO) has declared October of every year as a global commemoration called Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Due to the growing number of Breast Cancer incidences in the country, it is prudent that the state institute policies to raise awareness and education on Breast Cancer. A comprehensive information campaign is needed for Filipinos to learn about the prevention, detection, and treatment of the disease, which will result in lowering of incidences in the country.

In light of the foregoing, passage of the bill is urgently sought.


Leni Gerona-Robredo
Third District, Camarines Sur

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1 **AN ACT DECLARING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER OF EVERY YEAR AS**
2 **“BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH” AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

3
4 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** - This Act shall be known as the “Breast cancer awareness
5 month act”
6

7 **SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** - Article II, Section 15 of the Constitution states
8 that the state shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill
9 health consciousness among them. Furthermore, the State recognizes the need to
10 raise awareness among Filipinos about the dangers of Breast Cancer and possible
11 prevention of this illness.
12

13 **SEC. 3. *Awareness Month.*** - The Month of October of every year shall be
14 designated as “Breast Cancer Awareness Month”.
15

16 **SEC. 4. *Public Education and Awareness Program.*** - The Department of
17 Health in conjunction with the Department of Education, and Local Governments
18 shall create a comprehensive public education and awareness program on the
19 prevention and threats of Breast Cancer. The program shall include modules on
20 prevention, detection, and treatments for Breast Cancer.
21

22 **SEC. 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).*** - Within sixty (60) days
23 from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Health, in coordination with the
24 Secretary of Education, formulate the implementing rules and regulations necessary
25 for the effective implementation of this Act.
26

27 **SEC. 6. *Separability Clause.*** - If any provision of this Act is held invalid or
28 unconstitutional, the remainder of the Act or the provision not otherwise affected
29 shall remain valid and subsisting.
30

31 **SEC. 7. *Repealing Clause.*** - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
32 order, letter of instruction, administrative rule or regulation contrary to or
33 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended
34 accordingly.
35

36 **SEC. 8. *Effectivity*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days upon its
37 publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.