



16th CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
THIRD REGULAR SESSION

House of Representatives
HOUSE BILL NO. **6114**

INTRODUCED BY HONORABLE GUS S. TAMBUNTING

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to reduce the cost of prescription drugs. In our inflationary society, costs go spiral.

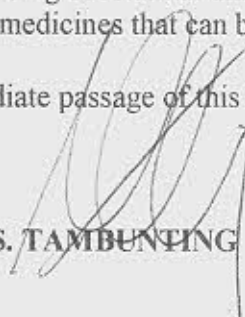
The Philippine International Trading Corporation (PITC) imports inexpensive medicines and sells them locally. Taking clear responsibility for the effective and efficient use of scarce resources and limited funding. The budget of the PITC to procure medicines is minuscule compared to the multibillion pharmaceutical market in the Philippines, majority of which is controlled by multinational companies.

This legislation will empower the PITC to direct importation of low priced medicines of the same quality or prescriptions from reputable and reliable suppliers and local sourcing of medicines using as basic component indigenous or endemic materials prevalent in the Philippines

Technology and new advances enable doctors to keep patients alive but these do not come cheap. Patients die not because of absence of medicines but because they cannot afford to buy medicines sitting idly in the cabinets of drugstores.

There is a great need to strengthen the mandate of PITC as well as resuscitate its dwindling fund by infusing substantial amount from the national budget so that the PITC will be able to import cheap medicines that can be distributed to local destinations.

Immediate passage of this measure is urgently sought.


GUS S. TAMBUNTING



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AN ACT
STRENGTHENING THE MANDATE OF THE PHILIPPINE INTERNATIONAL
TRADING CORPORATION (PITC) APPORTIONING FUNDS THEREFORE AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Section 1 of Executive Order 442 Designating Philippine International Trading Corporation as the lead coordinating agency to make quality medicines available, affordable and accessible to the greater masses of Filipinos is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SECTION 1. XXX

- A) Undertake the procurement, sourcing and marketing of quality, essential and low-priced generic medicines needed by the Filipino consumers through parallel drug importations and DIRECT IMPORTATION OF LOW PRICED MEDICINES OF THE SAME QUALITY OR PRESCRIPTIONS FROM REPUTABLE AND RELIABLE SUPPLIERS AND LOCAL SOURCING OF MEDICINES USING AS BASIC COMPONENT INDIGENOUS OR ENDEMIC MATERIALS PREVALENT IN THE PHILIPPINES and ensuring the widest distribution of these medicines nationwide.

Section 2. Repealing Clause. Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with, the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

Section 3. Effectivity. - takes effect within fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.