

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **6134**



Introduced by **HONORABLE LANI MERCADO-REVILLA**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article II, Section 18 provides:

"Section 13. The State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being. It shall inculcate in the youth patriotism and nationalism, and encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs."

Furthermore, Article II, Section 15 states:

"Section 15. The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them."

Based on the latest statistics released by the Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB), around 1.7 million Filipinos use drugs and other illegal substances. The drugs that are most abused in the Philippines are marijuana, heroin, cocaine, shabu, opium, ecstasy and such inhalants as nitrates and even gasoline and solvents, as these can be the cheap way for people to get "high". The problem of drug addiction is aggravated by the increasing new sets of designer drugs and the other variations of ecstasy given to unsuspecting high school and college students.

There is an urgent need to educate young people as to the dangers of drugs use because the Filipino youth are the easy victims of these destructive substances. There is also a great need to help those who are already addicted to escape their misery. Failure to do so could mean there will be further deterioration within many Filipino communities.

At present, drug dependency treatment is among those excluded from the benefit package of Philippine Health Insurance (PhilHealth). While law enforcement against drug users and drug pushers must be implemented, the rehabilitation of the users is equally important. We need to have these drug rehabilitation centers provided for by our PhilHealth programs and benefits.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


REP. LANI MERCADO-REVILLA
2nd District, Cavite

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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR AFFORDABLE DRUG REHABILITATION TREATMENT FOR
PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION (PHIC) BENEFICIARIES,
FURTHER AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT 7875, AS AMENDED

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

SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy. It is a declared policy of the State to adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development including the rehabilitation treatment of drug dependents and individuals victimized by the menace of drug abuse. With the alarming and continuously increasing drug addiction in the country, a faceless enemy that ruins countless lives and cripples the potentials of our youth, the State affirms a policy of society against drugs and for the purpose, provides affordable drug rehabilitation treatment for Philippine Health Insurance Corporation beneficiaries.

SECTION 2. Section 4 of Republic Act No. 7875, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

“Section 4. Definition of Terms. - For the purpose of this Act, the following:

Xxx

ZZ) DRUG DEPENDENT – AS DEFINED UNDER RA 9165 (COMPREHENSIVE DANGEROUS DRUGS ACT OF 2002), A PERSON EXHIBITING A CLUSTER OF PHYSIOLOGICAL, BEHAVIORAL AND COGNITIVE PHENOMENA OF VARIABLE INTENSITY, IN WHICH THE USE OF PSYCHOACTIVE DRUG TAKES A HIGH PRIORITY THEREBY INVOLVING, AMONG OTHERS, A STRONG DESIRE OR A SENSE OF COMPULSION TO TAKE THE SUBSTANCE AND THE DIFFICULTIES IN CONTROLLING SUBSTANCE-TAKING BEHAVIOR IN TERMS OF ITS ONSET, TERMINATION, OR LEVELS OF USE.

SECTION 3. Section 10 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Section 10. Benefit Package.-

Members and their dependents are entitled to the following minimum services, subject to the limitations specified in this Act and as may be determined by the Corporation”

xxx

d) Such other health care services that the Corporation and the DOH shall determine to be appropriate and cost-effective.

These services and packages shall be reviewed annually to determine their financial sustainability and relevance to health innovations, with the end in view of quality assurance, increased benefits and reduced out-of-pocket; **AND**

E) REHABILITATION TREATMENT OF DRUG DEPENDENTS

(1) ROOM AND BOARD;

(2) SERVICES OF HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS

(3) PRESCRIPTION DRUGS AND BIOLOGICALS, SUBJECT TO THE LIMITATIONS STATED IN SECTION 37 OF THIS ACT.

THESE SERVICES AND PACKAGES SHALL BE REVIEWED ANNUALLY IN KEEPING WITH ITS PROTECTION OBJECTIVES AND FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY.

SECTION 4. Implementing Rules and Regulations. The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PHIC) shall issue the necessary implementing rules and regulations in consultation with the Dangerous Drugs Board and relevant sectors for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 5. Repealing Clause. All laws, issuances, or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 6. Effectivity. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation, whichever comes earlier.

Approved.