

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

Seventeenth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6526



Introduced by Hon. Milagros Aquino-Magsaysay

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The number of kidney patients undergoing dialysis treatment in the country continues to go up, but the kidney donors remained low. According to the Renal Gift Allowing Life for Others (REGALO), an organ donor advocacy, said kidney patients could not undergo kidney transplant due to lack of donors. The only option to survive for many patients with end-stage renal disease is a kidney transplant but it is not easy for them to find donors.

According to a data from the Philippine Renal Disease Registry, there were 18,603 new patients that underwent dialysis in January 2015 and by the end of the year, the cases rose to 32,077. Out of these numbers, only 475 Filipino patients receive a kidney transplant. Patients, especially senior citizens, from the provinces, who are suffering from kidney disorder, have to travel all the way to select government hospitals and clinics just to avail themselves of dialysis treatment, which is needed on a regular and sustained basis. The optimum frequency of dialysis is three times a week but because of its high cost and inaccessibility, some patients settle with less but with their health deteriorating more progressively. Worse, some patients have died without being given a chance to undergo dialysis because they could not afford it.

In line with the government's efforts to provide Filipinos with comprehensive health services, all national, regional, and provincial government hospitals must be tapped to make healthcare services more affordable and accessible. Thus, this bill requires all government hospitals to establish, operate and maintain a dialysis ward or unit to ensure that dialysis treatment will be available, accessible and cost-effective especially to those living in the rural areas.

Hence, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


Milagros Aquino-Magsaysay
SENIOR CITIZENS Partylist

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

Seventeenth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6526

Introduced by Hon. Milagros Aquino-Magsaysay

**AN ACT REQUIRING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIALYSIS CLINICS
IN ALL NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND PROVINCIAL HOSPITALS AND
PROVIDING FOR FREE DIALYSIS TREATMENT FOR SENIOR
CITIZENS PATIENTS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF**

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

SECTION 1. Short Title – This Act shall be known as “*Senior Citizens Dialysis Act*”

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to protect and promote the right of senior citizens to enjoy the highest attainable standard of health. For this purpose, the State shall ensure that patients suffering from End Stage Renal Disease are accorded timely and appropriate treatment with the provision of accessible dialysis clinics and free dialysis treatments.

SECTION 3. Establishment of Dialysis Clinics in all National, Regional and Provincial Hospitals. – There shall be established dialysis clinics and dialysis wards in all national, regional and provincial hospitals in the country. The dialysis clinics shall

be equipped with sufficient machines, equipment, paraphernalia and supplies and staffed with the appropriate number of medical and other personnel.

The Department of Health (DOH), in coordination with the local government units and other relevant government agencies, shall lead the establishment of these clinics.

SECTION 4. Free Dialysis Treatment to Senior Citizens. – The Department of Health, in coordination with the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation, shall ensure that senior citizen patients are accorded free dialysis treatments in national, regional or provincial hospitals for one hundred (100) sessions or for one hundred eighty (180) days, whichever comes first. For this purpose, "senior citizen" refers to a patient who is at least sixty (60) years of age.

SECTION 5. Authority to Receive Donations and Exemptions from Donor's Taxes, Customs and Tariff Duties – The DOH shall have the authority to receive donations, gifts and bequests in order to augment the funding for the establishment of the dialysis clinics created in accordance with this Act. All donations, contributions or endowments which may be made by persons or entities to the dialysis clinics in national, regional and provincial hospitals and the importation of medical equipment and machineries, spare parts and other medical equipment used solely and exclusively by the dialysis clinics shall be exempt from income or donor's taxes, any other direct or indirect taxes, wharfage fees and other charges and restrictions.

SECTION 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations – Within sixty (60) days from the implementation of this Act, the Department of Health, upon consultation with relevant stakeholders, shall issue the implementing rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations – An initial amount of One Billion Pesos (P1,000,000,000) shall be appropriated for the implementation of this Act. Thereafter, its appropriation shall be included in the General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 8. Seperability Clause. – If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the Act or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 9. Repealing Clause. – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SECTION 10. Effectivity Clause. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days upon its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,