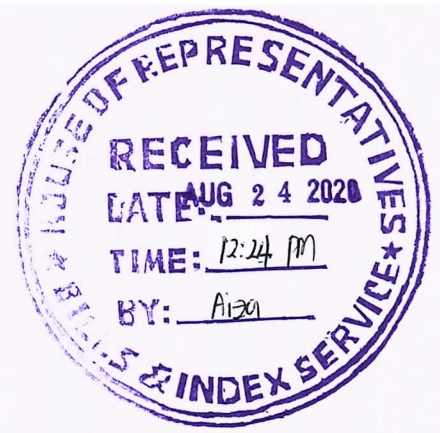


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila
EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session
HOUSE BILL NO. 7463



Introduced by Hon. Anthony Peter “Onyx” D. Crisologo

AN ACT
PROVIDING IMMUNIZATION SERVICES TO VULNERABLE AND
HIGH RISK GROUPS IN TIMES OF OUTBREAKS, PANDEMICS,
EPIDEMICS AND OTHER UNFORESEEN PUBLIC HEALTH
EMERGENCIES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The emergence of Corona Virus has affected the order of things in many countries. It has posed all kinds of threat to the general public prompting a wide range of health problems that resulted to the rise of massive socio-economic issues. With the constraints of the resources of our nation, and the immense extent of the consequences brought about by the pandemic, the significance of setting the right priorities to respond to the situation of our community is pronounced.

In times of national emergencies, proactive planning is of great importance for optimizing the country's policies. The creation of an Emergency Immunization Program is to provide for an equitable protection of the people by guaranteeing that the disproportionate chances of vulnerable sectors surviving the virus are promptly remedied through the strategic allocation of the limited fund of the country.¹

This bill seeks to establish a mechanism that immediately protects the general public from potential pandemics, outbreaks, and epidemics caused by new strains of virus. Through this, the government will have better control of the conditions that the country may experience during health crises and save the most number of lives possible.

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

ANTHONY PETER “ONYX” D. CRISOLOGO
Representative
First District, Quezon City

¹ Cohen, John (2020). 'The line is forming for a COVID-19 vaccine. Who should be at the front?' <https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2020/06/line-forming-covid-19-vaccine-who-should-be-front> (accessed 23 August 2020)

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*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 the “*Emergency Immunization Program of 2020.*”

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy - It is hereby declared a policy of the state to strengthen and prioritize the protection of all vulnerable sectors during the emergence of new virus strains in the country.

SECTION 3. Emergency Immunization Program - In the event that an/a outbreak/pandemic/epidemic caused by a new strain of virus emerges, the Department of Health (DOH) shall create an Emergency Immunization Program for vulnerable and high risk sectors to ensure the health of the general public.

Upon the approval of a vaccine, the Emergency Immunization Program shall provide immediate vaccination to the following vulnerable sectors, but not limited to:

- a. Senior Citizens
- b. People who are immunocompromised or with underlying health conditions that affect their immune system
- c. Medical Front Liners

SECTION 5. Appropriations- The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the budget of DOH specified as DOH Contingency Fund under the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA). The said fund shall only be used to account for the general expenses of the Emergency Immunization Program and shall remain intact if not used, to be carried over to the following years.

SECTION 6. Reporting - DOH shall submit an annual report on the said fund to COA and Congress before the hearing for the approval of GAA to review the availability of the budget for the said program.

SECTION 7. Implementing Rules and Regulation - DOH and all concerned agencies shall create the rules and regulation of this Act sixty (60) days

after its approval.

SECTION 8. Separability Clause - If, for any reason, any part or provision of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 9. Repealing Clause - All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 10. 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.