

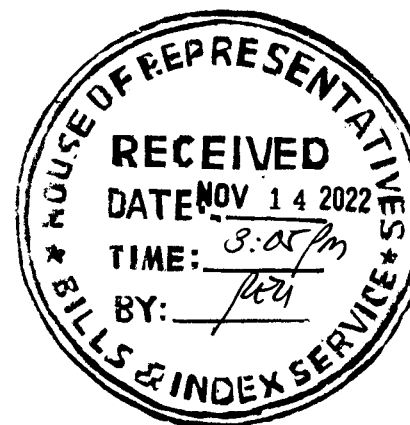


Republic of the Philippines

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Batasan Hills, Quezon City
Nineteenth Congress
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **6118**



Introduced by Representative **Florencio Gabriel “Bem” G. Noel**

AN ACT
PROVIDING FREE HEMODIALYSIS, PERITONEAL DIALYSIS, AND OTHER
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH APPROVED DIALYSIS PROCEDURES TO ALL
SENIOR CITIZENS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) is a worldwide crisis and an important contributor to global mortality and morbidity¹. It is projected that 1 in 10 people have some degree of CKD. In 2017, CKD resulted in 1.2 million deaths worldwide². With the natural aging of the kidneys, CKD becomes more common with increasing age. Conditions prevalent in senior citizens, such as heart diseases, high blood pressure, and diabetes, also damage the kidneys³. For senior citizens aged sixty-five (65) through seventy-four (74) worldwide, it is estimated that one in five men, and one in four women, have CKD.⁴ This statistic is problematic since CKD increases the risk of senior citizens from developing serious complications or dying from heart attack and stroke.

CKD is largely preventable and treatable through dialysis procedures such as hemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis⁵. However, the cost of medical treatment for kidney diseases in the country remains highly expensive. The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (Philhealth) only subsidizes 90 out of the 144 dialysis sessions needed in a year of treatment⁶. Further, with the advent of the Coronavirus 2019 disease (COVID-19), the mortality risk of senior citizens from CKD has further increased. The COVID-19 pandemic magnified the physical and financial vulnerabilities of our senior citizens. In the Philippines, the need to

¹ Bikbov, Boris et al. Global, regional, and national burden of chronic kidney disease, 1990-2017: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2017. *The Lancet*, Volume 35, Issue 10225, 709-733.

² *Ibid.*

³ <https://www.worldkidneyday.org/facts/chronic-kidney-disease/>

⁴ World Kidney Day. “Chronic Kidney Disease.” Retrieved from:
<https://www.worldkidneyday.org/facts/chronic-kidney-disease/>

⁵ 2018 United States Renal Data System Data Report Volume 2.

⁶ Philhealth Circular 22-2015

access dialysis has increased by 400% in the past 10 years with CKD becoming one of the leading causes of death among Filipino senior citizens.⁷ Not only are they at a high risk of contracting the virus due to their pre-existing medical conditions, but also many senior citizens only rely on their social pension - a measly amount of P500 they receive monthly provided by the Philippine Government. Finding other means of income or employment would be difficult after the age of 60⁸. With a case rate of P2,500 per session of dialysis, we cannot expect that our senior citizens needing this life saving treatment will be capable of paying the remaining 54 sessions amounting to P135,000 per year.

Consistent with Article XIII, Section 11 of the 1987 Constitution which seeks to endeavor to make essential goods and services available and affordable, especially for among others, the elderly. Further, the 1987 Philippine Constitution directs that we, the government, should prioritize the needs of our senior citizens. It is only by providing them a higher degree of care and protection that can we ensure we stay true to our mandate of upholding social justice and their right to life.

Therefore, this bill seeks to provide free hemodialysis, peritoneal dialysis, and other Department of Health (DOH) approved dialysis procedures to senior citizens. To honor the efforts and contribution to society of our *grandfathers* and grandmothers we must aid and safeguard them in their vulnerable state.

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



FLORENCIO GABRIEL "BEM" NOEL
Representative
An-Waray Partylist

⁷ S.C.W. Tang, et. al., "Dialysis Care and Dialysis Funding in Asia." American Journal of Kidney Diseases (2019).

⁸ Horn, David, Charles Knox-Vydraanov, and Aura Sevilla the Feasibility of a Universal Social Pension in the Philippines". Quezon City: Coalition of Services for the Elderly, and Help Age International, 2017



Republic of the Philippines

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Batasan Hills, Quezon City

Nineteenth Congress

First Regular Session

House Bill No. **6118**

Introduced by Representative Florencio Gabriel “Bem” G. Noel

AN ACT
PROVIDING FREE HEMODIALYSIS, PERITONEAL DIALYSIS, AND OTHER
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH APPROVED DIALYSIS PROCEDURES TO ALL
SENIOR CITIZENS

Be 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 "*Free Dialysis for Senior Citizens Act*".

SEC 2. *Declaration of Policy.* It is the declared policy of the State to improve the delivery of health care services to the people and to ensure hospital facilities are available, affordable and accessible to the people especially to the elders.

SEC. 3. *Free Dialysis for All Senior Citizens.* - The cost of the needed hemodialysis, peritoneal dialysis, and other Department of Health (DOH) approved dialysis procedure shall be fully reimbursed by the Philippines Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), provided such treatment is availed of at PhilHealth accredited hospitals and/or free-standing dialysis centers. *Provided further*, that only those procedures that use the dialysis solutions included in the latest edition of the Philippine National Drug Formulary (PNDF) shall be reimbursed by the Philhealth. *Provided finally*, that only laboratory procedures and supplies considered necessary shall be covered by the Philhealth. Philhealth shall, as soon as possible, reimburse all official receipts for drugs, supplies, and laboratory procedures dated thirty (30) days prior to the date of the claimed session.

SEC. 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* Within thirty (30) days from the approval of this Act, the DOH, the PhilHealth, and the National Commission on Senior Citizens (NSCC), in coordination with other implementing agencies, shall formulate rules and guidelines as may be necessary for the proper implementation and enforcement of this Act.

SEC. 5. *Appropriations.* The amount needed for the implementation of this Act shall be charged against the appropriations of the DOH and the PhilHealth in the current and

subsequent General Appropriations Act and their own respective funds. Thereafter, the amount necessary for the continuous implementation of this Act shall be included in the budget of the concerned departments in the annual General Appropriations.

SEC. 6. *Separability Clause.* If any provision of this Act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions or sections of this Act and the application of such provision or section to other persons or circumstances, not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 7. *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 are hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SEC. 8. *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.

Approved,