Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9942



Introduced by CIBAC Party-List Representative
Hon. Eduardo "Bro. Eddie" C. Villanueva

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In consonance with State's recognition of the need to promote the physical well-being of children, including promoting their right to health, and making health services adequate to all, this bill seeks to ensure that quality, affordable, accessible and available oral health care delivery can be availed by unemancipated child fifteen (15) years of age and below who have no visible means of support or whose parents or guardians have no means of providing for their immediate medical and dental needs.

Charitable access to medical and dental care, especially to the impoverished and indigent, remains scarce. In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

EDUARDO "BRO. EDDIE" C. VILLANUEVA

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AN ACT
TO REQUIRE THE GIVING OF FREE MEDICAL AND DENTAL SERVICES TO INDIGENT CHILDREN AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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 *Free Medical and Dental Service to Indigent Children Act.*

Section 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - The State recognizes that children are the future of our society. It has the primary responsibility to promote the right to health of all citizens, particularly the less fortunate children. It is hereby declared a policy of the State to ensure the protection of their guaranteed rights by providing free medical and dental services to all indigent children.

Section 3. *Indigent Children.* - For purposes of this Act, indigent children who are fifteen (15) years old and below shall have access to free medical and dental services. Provided, That the parents or guardians have no means of providing their immediate medical and dental needs.

Section 4. *Creation of Indigent Children Section; Mandatory Free Medical and Dental Services.* - There is hereby created in every hospital, medical center and other medical institution an Indigent Children Section to provide the mandatory free medical and dental treatment to indigent children.

Section 5. *Implementing Agencies.* - The Department of Health (DOH) and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) shall lead the implementation of this Act.

Section 6. *Appropriations.* - The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be sourced from the budget of DOH and DSWD under their current General Appropriations Act (GAA). Thereafter, such sums necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in their annual GAA.

Section 7. If, for any reason, any part or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 8. All other laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 9. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,