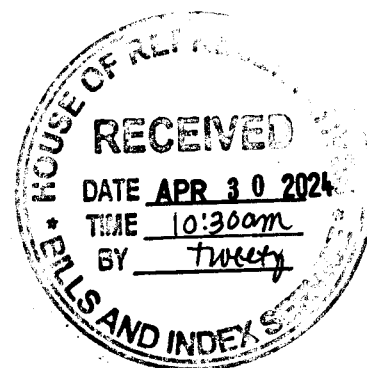




Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS  
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. **10290**



Introduced by Representative Midy N. Cua  
*Lone District, Quirino*

**AN ACT**  
**ESTABLISHING A SENIOR WELLNESS CENTER IN THE PROVINCE OF QUIRINO**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Article XV, Sec. 4 of the 1987 Constitution provides, "The family has the duty to care for its elderly members but the State may also do so through just programs of social security."

Senior citizens are considered a vulnerable sector in Philippine society. According to the Philippine Institute of Development Studies (PIDS), around 13.2% of the senior citizen population were classified as income poor and 4.3% were considered food poor. It has also been previously reported by the Commission on Population and Development (PopCom) that almost half of the over nine million elderly population in the country are still working and yet can hardly make ends meet. Most Filipino elderly are unhealthy and not seeking medical consultation due to financial reasons.

Another study by the PIDS shows that in 2020, only 5.3% of senior citizens are receiving pension from the GSIS, 19.9% are SSS pensioners, while 37.9% receive pension from the DSWD's Social Pension for Indigent Senior Citizens (SPISC) program. This means that close to two fifths or 36.9% of Filipino senior citizens do not receive any pension at all. Additionally, beneficiaries of the SPISC program are only receiving a monthly stipend of P500. These pension benefits are also not indexed to inflation which has recently shot up to 5.1%.

While the Constitution provides that the family is primarily responsible for the care of the elderly, a study by the Coalition of Services of the Elderly (COSE) shows that in reality, children constitute the main source of income only for a minority of the elderly, and that many Filipinos either rely on their measly pension for survival or through some sort of economic activity even at their advanced age. It further shows that the extent of support the family can give to its elderly is limited by a broad variety of competing priorities such that in many cases, economic dependence has created tension, anxieties, and disempowerment among the elderly. Meanwhile, many senior citizens simply have no family whom they can rely for support.

The Commission on Human Rights (CHR) also claims that the abuse, violence, and neglect faced by older people remains an invisible issue. There is little data available on elder abuse due to underreporting. However, an older study in 2004 conducted among urban poor communities in 2004 found that around 40% of older persons respondents have personally experienced abuse ranging from physical and verbal abuse, ridicule and discrimination, and negligence, with verbal abuse ranking as

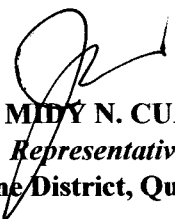
the most common type of abuse faced by older persons. The CHR pointed out that the invisibility of older persons in the justice system manifests in the lack of awareness of their legal rights, fear to report abuses, and the lack of legal remedies, among others.

It is against these present-day realities that the State must intervene to ensure that its elderly is taken care of and that their human rights are protected. This bill seeks to contribute in addressing the gaps in our social protection system by establishing a wellness for the elderly in the Province of Quirino. After years of contributing to national productivity, the establishment of a wellness shelter will ensure that Filipino senior citizens will have a place where they can live with dignity and security. Apart from providing living accommodations and healthcare specific to its residents' geriatric needs, the wellness shelter will also provide a sense of community which is vital in maintaining the physical, psychological, and mental well-being of the elderly.

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. has already manifested his recognition of senior citizens as important in national development through the Expanded Centenarians Act, which grants monetary benefits to octogenarians and nonagenarians. The law is seen as a homage to the Filipino trait of compassion, and in the Philippine culture, this shows more kindness and compassion to the elderly.

As the country continues to strive for sustainable and inclusive growth, the elderly should not be left out of the equation.

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



**MIDY N. CUA**  
*Representative*  
**Lone District, Quirino**



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

1 **SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to provide adequate  
2 care and protection to our elderly persons and senior citizens, and to ensure that their welfare are  
3 adequately considered and prioritized in the implementation of projects, programs and social services  
4 of the government.

5  
6 **SEC. 2. Establishment of the Quirino Senior Wellness Center.** - The Quirino Senior Wellness Center  
7 is hereby established under the control and supervision of the Department of Social Welfare and  
8 Development (DSWD). It shall set the policies and guidelines for the qualification of residents.

9  
10 The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), in coordination with the DSWD,  
11 shall identify the location of the wellness center and undertake its construction.

12  
13 **SEC. 3. Funding.** – The budgetary allocation needed to carry out the provisions of this Act is hereby  
14 authorized to be included in the General Appropriations Act of the year immediately following its  
15 enactment into law.

16  
17 **SEC. 4. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof,  
18 which are inconsistent with this Act, are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

19  
20 **SEC. 5. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official*  
21 *Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

22  
23 Approved.