Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives

Quezon City

Nineteenth Congress
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **11419**

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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Introduced by Hon. Charisse Anne C. Hernandez
Lone District of Calamba City, Laguna

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The "Free Maintenance Medicine for Senior Citizens Act" is a legislative proposal that will help our elderly population deal with their chronic and long-term medical conditions. It acknowledges the fundamental importance of preserving and enhancing the health and well-being of senior citizens in our society.

In my experience, senior citizens are lining up in different government offices just to ask for their "everyday medicines," especially those who are financially-strained or have been left alone in their lives. This is a burden on our elders, and this bill aims to alleviate their lives through the assistance of the government by giving them free maintenance medicines.

We can create with the help of our Department of Health by providing our health centers a sufficient supply of maintenance medicines for them that they can easily access. We acknowledge that managing chronic diseases and life-long illnesses must not be compromised by our economic shortcomings.

Furthermore, the bill is a display of honoring and caring for our senior citizens who have contributed to our nation's growth and development over the years.

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

CHARISSE ANNE C. HERNANDEZ
Lone District of Calamba City, Laguna

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HOUSE BILL NO. **11419**

Introduced by Hon. Charisse Anne C. Hernandez
Lone District of Calamba City, Laguna

AN ACT GRANTING FREE MAINTENANCE MEDICINES TO SENIOR CITIZENS

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 Maintenance Medicines for Senior Citizens Act."**

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. – Consonant with Article XIII, Sec. 11 of the Constitution which provides that the State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health and other social services available to all people at affordable cost, giving priority to the underprivileged, sick, elderly, disabled, women and children, it is hereby declared the policy of the State to protect and promote the health and well-being of elderly citizens for their continued meaningful contribution and participation in the society. This Act seeks to provide free maintenance medications for our senior citizens, thereby enhancing their quality of life and health outcomes.

SECTION 3. Free Maintenance Medicine – The government through Department of Health and Department of Interior and Local Government shall provide free maintenance medicine to qualified senior citizens. The DOH shall identify a list of maintenance medicines for senior citizens and shall be supplied to all our barangay health centers, super health centers and rural health units. The DILG must provide the list of qualified senior citizen beneficiaries for this free maintenance medicines which they have to turnover to our DOH.

SECTION 4. Qualified Beneficiaries. - To qualify for the Free Maintenance Medicines, a senior citizen must meet the following criteria:

(a) Be a Filipino citizen and a registered senior citizen as defined in Republic Act No. 9994.

(b) Submit an application to the Department of Health (DOH) or its designated agency, accompanied by a valid prescription for maintenance medications issued by application.

(**c)** Once approved, beneficiaries shall be issued a Free Maintenance Medicine Card.

SECTION 5. Implementation and Coordination. - The Department of Health (DOH) shall be responsible for the implementation of this Act and shall coordinate with other relevant agencies, including the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) and National Commission of Senior Citizens (NCSC) to ensure the efficient distribution of the Free Maintenance Medicine

SECTION 6. Monitoring and Evaluation. - The DOH shall establish a monitoring system to track the utilization of the Free Maintenance Medicine for Senior Citizens Act. The DOH shall submit an annual report to Congress detailing the program's effectiveness and impact on senior citizens' health and well-being.

SECTION 7. Penalties. - Any person who commits fraud, misrepresentation, or any form of abuse in the application or use of the Free Maintenance Medicine for Senior Citizens shall be subject to penalties as prescribed by law.

SECTION 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - The DOH, in coordination with the DILG, NCSC and other relevant agencies, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to effectively implement this Act within ninety (90) days from its effectivity.

SECTION 9. Separability Clause. – If any part, section, or provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 10. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SECTION 11. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,