

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 514



Introduced by **Representative Jaime R. Fresnedi**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This proposed measure seeks to provide for free, other necessary vaccinations for the maintenance of the quality of life of senior citizens. The bill proposes to amend Section 4 of Republic Act No. 7432, as amended, to broaden the scope of health benefits available to the Filipino elderly by ensuring that vaccines against common and preventable diseases are made accessible, without cost.

In our country, free vaccinations are available for influenza and pneumococcal diseases, particularly for indigent senior citizens. While this is a crucial step toward preventive care, it also leaves a significant policy gap in the protection against other infectious diseases like tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis. The above remain prevalent and life-threatening, most especially for individuals with weakened immune systems and other underlying health conditions that are common in aging populations.

The passage of this bill is envisioned to reduce the healthcare burden on senior citizens and their families. It is hoped to lessen the frequency of consultations, admissions and treatment costs, which can be particularly taxing for senior citizens living on pensions. Moreover, this measure is a testament to the State's commitment to uphold the dignity and welfare of its senior citizens by ensuring that they are afforded comprehensive protection against infectious diseases.

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


JAIME R. FRESNEDI
Representative
Lone District, Muntinlupa City

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AN ACT
GRANTING ADDITIONAL FREE VACCINATIONS TO SENIOR CITIZENS,
AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE SECTION 4 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7432, AS
AMENDED, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

Sec. 1. Section 4 of Republic Act No. 7432, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

“Sec. 4. *Privileges for the Senior Citizens.* – The senior citizens shall be entitled to the following:

(a) x x x

(b) x x x

(c) x x x

(c) x x x

(d) x x x

(f) the DOH shall administer free vaccination against the influenza virus, **TETANUS, DIPHTHERIA, PERTUSSIS**, [and] pneumococcal disease **AND OTHER SIMILAR APPROVED VACCINATIONS WHICH THE DOH MAY DEEM NECESSARY FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF THE QUALITY OF LIFE** for ALL [indigent] senior citizen [patients];”

Sec. 2. *Appropriations.* – The amount needed for the implementation of this Act shall be charged against the appropriations of Department of Health (DOH) in the current and

subsequent General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, the amount needed for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the budget of the concerned departments in the annual General Appropriations.

Sec. 3. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within six (6) months from the approval of this Act, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and the DOH, 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. 4. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, executive orders, issuances, rules and regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

Sec. 5. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in any two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,