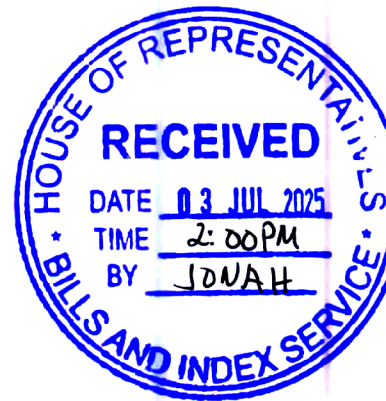


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session



House Bill No. 1266

Introduced by Honorable Roy M. Loyola

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines, deeply rooted in its matriarchal heritage, holds women in high regard—we even call our country “Inang Bayan.” Women are the heart of our families and communities, embodying strength, sacrifice, and compassion. As the ilaw ng tahanan, they light the way for their loved ones and shape the future of our nation. Honoring their role means protecting their health and well-being because healthy women build strong families and a resilient society.

Yet, breast and ovarian cancers threaten the lives of many Filipino women. According to 2020 GLOBOCAN data, breast cancer is the most common cancer among women in the Philippines, with 27,163 new cases and 9,926 deaths each year. Ovarian cancer, a silent but deadly disease, ranks among the top ten causes of cancer-related deaths. Alarming, 65% of breast cancer cases are detected at an advanced stage, lowering survival rates to only 44.4%. These numbers are not just statistics—they are mothers, daughters, and sisters whose lives could be saved with early detection.

The financial burden of cancer weighs heavily on Filipino families. A study by the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) found that the economic cost of cancer reaches approximately PHP 35.3 billion annually, driving countless families into poverty. For many women, the high cost of preventive screenings such as mammograms and ovarian tests forces them to forgo critical care.

This proposed measure mandates PhilHealth to provide free annual mammograms and ovarian cancer screenings for all women. Early detection saves lives. By making these services part of PhilHealth's primary healthcare benefits, we ensure that women receive life-saving screenings without the fear of financial hardship.

The benefits are undeniable. Early detection significantly increases survival rates and reduces the overall cost of treatment, as early-stage cancers are more manageable than advanced ones. Offering free screenings empowers women to prioritize their health without the fear of economic strain. It is a vital step toward building a healthcare system that truly serves the Filipino people.

Healthcare is not a privilege—it is a right. No woman should be forced to choose between her health and her family's livelihood. By eliminating financial barriers, we uphold the dignity of Filipino women and recognize their irreplaceable role in society. Furthermore, investing in preventive care will reduce the economic impact of cancer, easing the burden on families and the healthcare system alike.

This measure is more than policy—it is a promise. A promise to protect the health of our mothers, sisters, and daughters. A promise to safeguard generations to come. As a nation that holds women in high regard, let us act—not just in word, but in deed—to build a healthier, stronger, and more compassionate Philippines.

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



ATTY. ROY M. LOYOLA
Representative
Fifth District, Cavite

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

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House Bill No. **1266**

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AN ACT
MANDATING THE PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION
(PHILHEALTH) TO PROVIDE ANNUAL FREE MAMMOGRAMS AND OVARIAN
CANCER SCREENING FOR WOMEN, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 **Sec. 1. *Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known as the "Women's Cancer
2 Prevention Act."

3 **Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** – It is the policy of the State to protect and
4 promote the right to health of women. Recognizing the importance of early detection
5 in the successful treatment of breast and ovarian cancers, the State shall ensure that
6 all women have access to necessary preventive healthcare services.

7 **Sec. 3. *Annual Free Mammogram.*** – The Philippine Health Insurance
8 Corporation (PhilHealth) shall continue to provide all female members and dependents
9 aged forty (40) and above with access to a free mammogram once every calendar
10 year. This service shall be included in PhilHealth's primary healthcare benefits.

11 **Sec. 4. *Annual Free Ovarian Cancer Screening.*** – PhilHealth shall provide
12 all female members and dependents aged forty (40) and above with access to free
13 ovarian cancer screening once every calendar year. This service shall include, but not
14 be limited to, transvaginal ultrasound and CA-125 blood test, and shall be incorporated
15 into PhilHealth's primary healthcare benefits.

16 **Sec. 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within ninety (90) days

17 from the effectivity of this Act, PhilHealth, in coordination with the Department of
18 Health (DOH), shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective
19 implementation of this Act.

20 **Sec. 6. Appropriations.** – The funds necessary for the implementation of this
21 Act shall be included in the annual budget of PhilHealth.

22 **Sec. 7. Separability Clause.** – If any provision of this Act is declared
23 unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall continue
24 to be in full force and effect.

25 **Sec. 8. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations
26 or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,