



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. 2040



Introduced by: **HON. CARL NICOLAS C. CARI**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Cancer is a significant global health concern, and the Philippines is no exception. To address this problem, the government should implement a cancer screening, early detection, and prevention program in all government health facilities for the Filipino population.

The program should aim to provide accessible and affordable cancer screening services to Filipinos, particularly those at high risk for developing the disease. This includes those with a history of cancer in their family, those who smoke or use tobacco products, and those with a history of exposure to cancer-causing agents.

Detection at an early stage is crucial in the fight against cancer. In addition to education and awareness campaigns, the program should encourage Filipinos to undergo regular cancer screenings by promoting regular cancer screenings. This can include public service announcements, community outreach programs, and health facility-distributed educational materials.

A cancer screening, early detection, and prevention program for Filipinos in all government health facilities is crucial for reducing the cancer burden in the Philippines. By providing accessible and affordable cancer care services, promoting healthy lifestyle choices, and investing in healthcare professionals, the government can assist Filipinos in the early detection and prevention of cancer, thereby enhancing their chances of survival and quality of life.

This measure was previously filed in the 19th Congress by the undersigned and was referred to the House Committee on Health on 05-08-2023.

With the foregoing in mind, it is requested that this bill be passed.

CARL NICOLAS C. CARI
Representative
5th District, Leyte



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**CANCER SCREENING, EARLY DETECTION, AND PREVENTION PROGRAM FOR
FILIPINOS IN ALL GOVERNMENT HEALTH FACILITIES NATIONWIDE AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. Title. - This Act shall be known as the "Cancer Screening, Early Detection, and Prevention Program Act."

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is declared the policy of the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people. Likewise, it is the policy of the State to adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development, which shall endeavor to make health care, medicines, and other social services available to all people at an affordable cost.

To this end, the State shall endeavor to prevent and control diseases among high-risk groups through free prevention, screening, and early cancer detection.

SECTION 3. Cancer Prevention Program. - The Department of Health (DOH), in coordination with the local government units through its local health officers, shall carry out and reinforce cancer prevention programs already in place, the purposes of which are as follows:

- a) To educate individuals on the significance of a healthy diet and lifestyle as a means of preventing all types of cancer;
- b) To inform the public about the risk factors for all types of cancer;
- c) To educate on the common signs and symptoms of cancer, with a focus on the most prevalent types of cancer in the Philippines;
- d) To educate on proper self-examination techniques, such as breast self-examination (BSE) for breast cancer;
- e) To educate on the need for periodic physical examinations, including the frequency and type of each test appropriate for each age group and the type of cancer for which the physical examination is intended (e.g., clinical breast exam for breast cancer, digital rectal exam for prostate cancer, among others);
- f) To raise awareness about the availability of immunization as a cancer prevention measure; and
- g) To educate individuals on the availability and suitability of early cancer detection procedures.

SECTION 4. Free Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccination. - Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccination, as part of the prevention of cervical cancer, shall be provided free of charge by all government health facilities in the Philippines to qualified, eligible beneficiaries.



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SECTION 5. *Free Screening and Early Detection Program.* - All government health facilities nationwide shall provide free cancer screening and early detection programs for all qualified, eligible beneficiaries; the DOH shall determine the frequency and ages at which screening should be performed. The following screening and early detection procedures shall be made accessible and available for all qualified, eligible beneficiaries:

- a) Mammogram
- b) Fine Needle Aspiration Biopsy
- c) Pap Smear/Pap Test
- d) Fecal Occult Blood Testing Colonoscopy
- e) Prostate Ultrasound

SECTION 6. *Qualified Eligible Beneficiaries.* - The Free HPV Vaccination and Free Screening and Early Detection Program is restricted to recipients who meet the following criteria:

- a) Filipinos between the ages of 10 and 50 whose parents have been diagnosed with cancer by a qualified health professional, or whose parents have died with cancer as the underlying cause of death as declared by a qualified health professional and indicated on the death certificate.
- b) Identified as head of the family and the breadwinner through a Social Case Study made by a social worker from the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) or through their BIR Income Tax Return;
- c) Has a gross annual income of not greater than Php 100,000.00 as reflected in their BIR Income Tax Return; and
- d) Belongs to the high-risk group identified by the DOH.

SECTION 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - In coordination with the DSWD, the DOH shall promulgate and issue the necessary guidelines for implementing this Act within sixty (60) days after its effectivity.

SECTION 8. *Appropriations.* - The Secretary of the DOH shall immediately include in the Department's program the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 9. *Separability Clause.* - If a provision or part hereof is declared invalid for any reason, other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 10. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules, and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 11. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

APPROVED,