



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

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 2830

Introduced by **Representatives JOCELYN P. TULFO, RALPH WENDEL P. TULFO, and
EDVIC G. YAP**

**AN ACT
EXPANDING HEALTH BENEFITS AND WELLNESS PROGRAMS FOR SENIOR
CITIZENS, FURTHER AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9994, OTHERWISE KNOWN
AS THE "EXPANDED SENIOR CITIZENS ACT OF 2010," AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Philippine Constitution (Article XV, Section 4) explicitly mandates the State to "*protect and promote the right to health of the people*" and to "*afford full protection to the elderly*." While the Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010 (R.A. No. 9994) and the Universal Health Care Act (R.A. No. 11223) have laid crucial foundations for elderly welfare, systemic gaps persist in delivering *holistic, preventive, and wellness-oriented care* tailored to the needs of senior citizens.

Despite existing laws guaranteeing free hospitalization and discounted medicines, many elderly citizens continue to suffer from preventable health deterioration, neglected mental health needs, and limited access to rehabilitative and wellness programs. The absence of structured preventive care leads to avoidable hospitalizations, diminished quality of life, and unnecessary financial burdens on families and public healthcare systems.

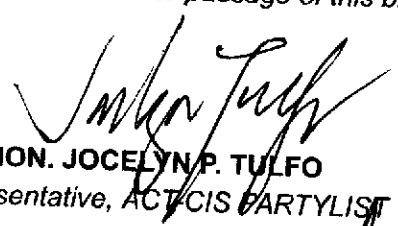
The **Expanded Senior Citizens Health and Wellness Act of 2025** seeks to bridge these gaps by institutionalizing a comprehensive, proactive, and inclusive approach to senior health and wellness, including:

- **Mandatory annual preventive health check-ups** to detect and address illnesses early;
- **Establishment of age-friendly wellness centers** nationwide, equipped with rehabilitative and mental health services;
- **Mobile health units and telehealth programs** to reach homebound and rural senior citizens;

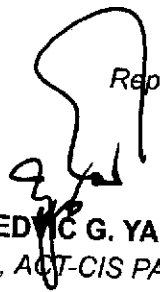
- **Strengthened inter-agency coordination** (DOH, DSWD, LGUs, and PhilHealth) for efficient service delivery;
- **Digital literacy and inclusion programs** to empower senior citizens with skills to navigate technology, access online health services, and combat misinformation; and
- **Dedicated funding mechanisms** to ensure sustainability.

With the rapidly aging Filipino population (projected to reach **14% of the population by 2030**, per PSA data), the urgency of this measure cannot be overstated. By shifting from reactive treatment to preventive and wellness-focused care—and by bridging the digital divide for our elderly—we not only uphold their dignity but also reduce long-term healthcare costs and foster a healthier, more resilient, and digitally inclusive society.

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



HON. JOCELYN P. TULFO
Representative, ACT-CIS PARTYLIST



HON. EDVIC G. YAP
Representative, ACT-CIS PARTYLIST



HON. RALPH WENDEL P. TULFO
Representative, 2ND DISTRICT OF
QUEZON CITY



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SENIOR CITIZENS ACT OF 2010,” AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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 ***“Expanded Senior Citizens Health and Wellness
Act of 2025.”***

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy.

It is the declared policy of the State to uphold the dignity and promote the well-being
of its senior citizens. Recognizing their invaluable contributions to nation-building,
the State shall ensure universal access to comprehensive healthcare, proactive
preventive medicine, and holistic wellness programs. This includes fostering an
environment where all senior citizens, regardless of socio-economic status, can
lead healthy, productive, and fulfilling lives, ensuring their full participation in
society.

SECTION 3. Amendment to Section 5 of R.A. No. 9994.

Section 5 of Republic Act No. 9994 is hereby amended by amending subsection (c)
to read as follows:

***“SEC. 5. Government Assistance. — The National Government shall
provide the following assistance to senior citizens:***

(a) xxx

(b) xxx

(c) Health

The Department of Health (DOH), in close coordination with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the National Commission of Senior Citizens (NCSC), and local government units (LGUs), shall institute and implement a comprehensive national health program and provide integrated health services for senior citizens, which shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- **Mandatory Annual Preventive Health Check-up and Screening Programs:** Establish and ensure the nationwide provision of free, comprehensive annual preventive health check-ups and screenings for all senior citizens. These programs shall include thorough physical examinations, essential laboratory diagnostics, mental health assessments, comprehensive dental care, and all recommended immunizations.
- **Community-Based Wellness and Fitness Initiatives:** Develop and promote accessible community-based wellness and fitness programs specifically designed for senior citizens. This shall include the establishment of senior-friendly gyms, regular exercise classes tailored to their needs, comprehensive rehabilitation and therapy services, and evidence-based nutrition programs.
- **Mobile and Home-Based Health Services:** Prioritize and provide specialized mobile and home-based health services for indigent, bedridden, and geographically isolated senior citizens to ensure they receive necessary medical attention and support.
- **Enhanced Access to Modern Healthcare and Devices:** Facilitate and ensure subsidized access to telemedicine consultations, essential maintenance medicines, and appropriate assistive health devices such as hearing aids, wheelchairs, and prosthetic limbs, based on medical necessity.
- **Training in Geriatric Care:** The DOH shall continue to train community-based health workers among senior citizens and health personnel to specialize in geriatric care and the specific health problems of senior citizens.
- **Harmonization with National Health Programs:** The national health program for senior citizens shall, among others, be harmonized with relevant national health programs of the DOH, such as the National Prevention of Blindness Program.
- **Establishment of Senior Citizens' Wards:** Throughout the country, there shall be established a "senior citizens' ward" in every government hospital. This geriatric ward shall be for the exclusive use of senior citizens who are in need of hospital confinement due to their health conditions. However, when urgency or public necessity so requires, such geriatric ward may be used for emergency purposes, after which it shall revert to its original function.

The necessary budgetary requirements for the establishment, implementation, and sustained operation of these programs shall be fully incorporated into the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA) of the DOH, DSWD, and NCSC, ensuring dedicated and sufficient funding.

- (d) xxx
- (e) xxx
- (f) xxx
- (g) xxx
- (h) xxx

(i) Digital Literacy and Inclusion Programs:

The Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), in coordination with the National Commission of Senior Citizens (NCSC) and relevant non-governmental organizations, shall establish and implement comprehensive digital literacy and inclusion programs tailored for senior citizens. These programs shall aim to provide senior citizens with the necessary tools and skills to navigate the digital world, including but not limited to basic computer and internet usage, online communication platforms, accessing digital government services, cybersecurity awareness, and combating online misinformation.

The DICT shall allocate the necessary funds for the development of modules, training of facilitators, provision of accessible training venues, and procurement of essential equipment to ensure the effective and widespread implementation of these programs across the country. Such funds shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act of the DICT."

SECTION 4. Appropriations.

The funds necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act (GAA) for the fiscal year immediately following its enactment into law. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for its continued implementation shall be annually appropriated.

In addition to the funds appropriated under the GAA, the following shall be explored as supplemental funding sources for the programs and benefits under this Act:

- **Incremental revenues from the Sin Tax Reform Law:** A portion of the incremental revenues from the Sin Tax Reform Law shall be allocated to this Act. This allocation shall be subject to existing earmarking provisions, with a specific percentage or amount to be determined by the Department of Finance (DOF) and the Department of Health (DOH).
- **Contributions from the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR):** PAGCOR shall contribute a percentage of its net revenues to the implementation of this Act.
- **Contributions from the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO):** PCSO shall likewise contribute a percentage of its charity fund or net receipts to the programs established by this Act.

SECTION 5. Implementing Rules and Regulations.

The DOH, DSWD, DICT, and NCSC, in consultation with LGUs, relevant non-governmental organizations, and other key stakeholders, shall jointly promulgate

1 the necessary implementing rules and regulations (IRR) within ninety (90) days from
2 the effectivity of this Act.

3 **SECTION 6. Separability Clause.**

4 If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining
5 provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

6 **SECTION 7. Repealing Clause.**

7 All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules, and regulations or parts thereof
8 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or
9 modified accordingly.

10 **SECTION 8. Effectivity.**

11 This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official
12 Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

13 ***Approved,***