



HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES HOUSE
BILL No. 3525

INTRODUCED BY HON. RICARDO S. CRUZ, JR.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Access to essential health care services remains a major challenge. Many Filipinos travel from rural areas to nearby cities to seek medical care as most hospitals in the country are concentrated in Metro Manila and other urban centers. Aside from the hardship of travelling for hours, many patients also resort to queuing the night before or as early as dusk just to access the health services they need, as several hospitals have daily limits on consultations and diagnostic laboratory slots.

As the saying goes, prevention is better than cure. Chronic medical conditions can be prevented through accessible healthcare and early detection. This underscores the importance of investing in making primary healthcare accessible, available, and affordable.

Against this backdrop, this bill proposes the creation of Super Health Centers in every city and municipality in the country, envisioned to actualize constitutional policies on health. Section 15 of Article II of the 1987 Constitution states that “[t]he State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.”

The passage of this bill will help strengthen our primary health care system and increase its accessibility to the people. These centers will operate 24/7 and will provide various medical services including specialized care, primarily focusing on low-risk, less serious or uncomplicated cases. The Super Health Centers can help ease the burden on patients who would otherwise need to travel to distant hospitals for basic treatments or consultations.

To date, the City of Taguig has three 24/7 Super Health Centers.¹ These have licensed doctors, midwives and nurses offering medical check-up, diagnostic laboratory services, prenatal check-up, delivery services such as normal spontaneous delivery, newborn screening and essential newborn care. Residents of the City of Taguig stand as a testament to the feasibility and success of these Super Health Centers, which have delivered on its promise of accessible and quality primary care. Many commend the convenience and support they receive, especially during medical emergencies.

¹ Taguig Super Health Centers <https://www.taguig.gov.ph/health/hospitals-and-centers/>;
Note: Data confirmed with CH

Replicating Super Health Centers in every city and municipality will contribute to the national government's mandate of delivering a comprehensive and accessible health care within the reach of the people. The enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health should not only be a constitutional dictum or remain an aspiration, but must actually be realized for the benefit of every Filipino.

In line with the policy adopted by its original proponent Senator Alan Peter "Compañero" S. Cayetano, this bill therefore serves as a counterpart measure. It is for the reason stated above that the passage of this measure is earnestly sought.



RICARDO S. CRUZ, JR.

HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES HOUSE
BILL No. 3525

INTRODUCED BY HON. RICARDO S. CRUZ, JR.

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE CREATION OF SUPER HEALTH CENTERS IN EVERY CITY
AND MUNICIPALITY, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, 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 “*Super Health Centers in All Cities and Municipalities Act.*”

Sec. 2. *Statement of Policy.* – Section 15 of Article II of the 1987 Constitution provides that “the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.” On the other hand, Section 16 of Article II provides that “the State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature.”

Healthcare that is based on practical, scientifically-sound and socially acceptable methods and technology should be made universally accessible to individuals and families in every city and municipality in the country. It is therefore the bounden duty of the State to build world class but accessible and affordable health and educational facilities throughout the country that provide excellent services to the Filipino people.

Sec. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – The following terms and phrases, as used in this Act, are defined as follows:

(a) *Primary health services or primary health care* – shall mean the initial contact of an individual with an accessible and coordinated health system to manage health problems or issues that are less severe or uncomplicated, including, but not limited to the following: (1) diagnosis and treatment of health problems; (2) prevention of health problems; (3) early intervention; and (4) managing ongoing and long-term conditions.

(b) *Super Health Center* – shall mean an accessible and fully equipped health hub that delivers primary health services and caters to less severe, uncomplicated or out-patient health care services.

Sec. 4. *Establishment of Super Health Centers.* – Each city and municipality shall establish at least one (1) Super Health Center within its territorial jurisdiction. The Super

Health Centers shall have the following minimum standards:

(a) Facilities, rooms, and spaces which are accessible, especially to the elderly and Persons with Disability, and with appropriate signage;

(b) Basic health equipment and facilities appropriate for the provision of primary health services;

(c) Availability of commonly-used generic medicines and vaccines; and

(d) Data and information management system that shall contain, store, and secure the health and other relevant data of the patients, in accordance with the provisions of the Data Privacy Act.

The Department of Health (DOH), in coordination with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), shall issue guidelines for the proper implementation of this Act, and shall provide assistance to cities and municipalities in establishing the Super Health Centers. Medical services provided within the Super Health Centers and their providers shall be accredited by the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth).

Sec. 5. *Staffing.* – All Super Health Centers established under this Act shall have such sufficient number of staffing as determined by the DOH, depending on the population of the city or municipality concerned.

The LGU concerned shall hire all Super Health Center staff as job order, casual, contractual, or regular employees. Barangay health workers currently serving the city or municipality shall be given preference in the hiring under this Act.

Sec. 6. *Services.* – All Super Health Centers established under this Act shall be equipped with the most basic facilities that can cater to less severe, uncomplicated, and/or out-patient health care services.

Sec. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days after the approval of this Act, the DOH, in coordination with the DSWD, the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), and the Department of the Interior and Local Government, shall prepare and issue such rules and regulations necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act.

Thereafter, the DPWH shall ensure the commencement of the creation of Super Health Centers within the fiscal year after appropriating the budget therefore.

Sec. 8. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be appropriated from the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment, and every year thereafter.

Sec. 9. *Separability Clause.* – If any part or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other parts hereof not affected thereby shall remain valid.

Sec. 10. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, acts, presidential decrees, executive orders, administrative orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are deemed amended, modified or repealed accordingly.

Sec. 11. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,