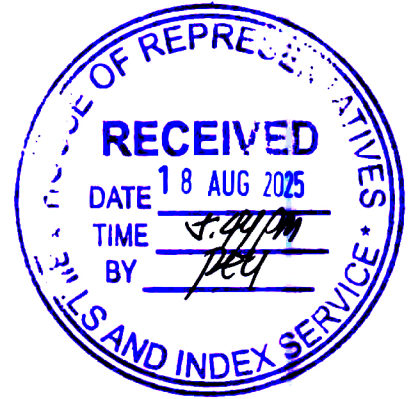




Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3837



Introduced by Representative Carlos Andes Loria

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Chronic kidney disease (CKD) is one of the most pressing public health challenges in the Philippines today. It is a leading cause of morbidity and mortality, with thousands of Filipinos depending on long-term dialysis or kidney transplantation to survive. According to the Department of Health (DOH), kidney disease consistently ranks among the top ten causes of death nationwide. However, access to specialized renal care remains largely concentrated in Metro Manila and select urban areas, leaving many regions, including Bicol, significantly underserved.

The Bicol Region (Region V), home to more than six million Filipinos, bears a disproportionately high burden of kidney-related illnesses. The prevalence of diabetes and hypertension, the two primary risk factors for CKD, is also notably high in the region. Yet, the renal care infrastructure is grossly inadequate. There is a severe shortage of nephrologists, dialysis centers, and transplant support services. As a result, many patients must travel long distances, face financial hardship, or delay essential treatment due to the lack of accessible and affordable renal care facilities.

Albay Province, serving as the regional gateway and economic center of Bicol, is strategically positioned to host a facility that will provide comprehensive prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation services for kidney and allied diseases. However, despite having tertiary hospitals and provincial health

facilities, the region still lacks an institution fully dedicated to specialized renal healthcare, dialysis, and organ transplantation.

This proposed measure seeks to address these gaps by establishing the National Kidney and Transplant Institute for the Bicol Region (NKTI-Bicol) in the Municipality of Daraga, Province of Albay, under the supervision of the Department of Health. As a constituent specialty hospital of the existing National Kidney and Transplant Institute in Quezon City, the NKTI-Bicol will be equipped with state-of-the-art facilities to provide specialized diagnostics, dialysis treatment, kidney transplantation, post-transplant care, and public health programs aimed at prevention and early detection of kidney diseases.

The NKTI-Bicol will also serve as a training and research hub to develop local expertise in nephrology, dialysis care, and transplant medicine, ensuring the availability of skilled healthcare professionals in the region. Importantly, it will adopt a program for indigent patients, allocating not less than forty percent (40%) of its bed capacity to serve those who cannot afford the cost of treatment, thereby ensuring equitable access to life-saving kidney care.

In line with the State's constitutional duty under Article II, Section 15 and Article XIII, Section 11 of the 1987 Constitution to protect and promote the right to health and to adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development, especially for the underprivileged, this measure represents a vital and long-overdue intervention to reduce preventable deaths, improve the quality of life of kidney patients, and bring essential renal healthcare closer to the people of Bicol.

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


CARLOS ANDES LORIA

1 disorders in the country, particularly in the Bicol Region, through specialized
2 medical services for the prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation of
3 kidney and allied diseases, including organ transplantation.

4 **SEC. 3. *National Kidney and Transplant Institute for Bicol Region.*** –The
5 National Kidney and Transplant Institute in the Bicol Region, to be known as the
6 National Kidney and Transplant Institute - Bicol, hereinafter referred to as the
7 “NKTI-Bicol,” in the Municipality of Daraga, Province of Albay is established, with
8 a bed capacity of at least one hundred fifty (150) and under the direct supervision of
9 the Department of Health. The NKTI-Bicol shall be administered by the Board of
10 Trustees, hereinafter referred to as the Board, of the National Kidney and Transplant
11 Institute in Quezon City as a constituent specialty hospital.

12 **SEC. 4. *Medical Director.*** – The NKTI-Bicol shall be headed by a Medical
13 Director who shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines, upon the
14 recommendation of the Board.

15 The Medical Director shall exercise the following powers and functions:

- 16 a. Execute the policies, guidelines, and programs approved by the Board, and
17 oversee the efficient discharge of management and operational functions;
18 b. Propose measures, policies, guidelines, and programs as may be deemed
19 necessary or proper for the effective implementation of the purposes and
20 objectives of this Act for the consideration and approval of the Board;

- 1 c. Direct and supervise the management, operation, and administration of the
2 NKTI-Bicol, and delegate administrative responsibilities and duties to
3 other officers of the Institute;
- 4 d. Execute all contracts and agreements entered into by the Board, and
5 accomplish and deliver any documents relative to such contracts and
6 agreements;
- 7 e. Represent the NKTI-Bicol in all dealings with other offices, agencies, and
8 instrumentalities of the government, and other persons or entities;
- 9 f. Recommend to the Board the appointment, promotion, transfer, dismissal,
10 and suspension of the officers and employees of the Institute; and
- 11 g. Exercise such other powers and perform such duties as may be vested or
12 reposed by the Board.

13 SEC. 5. ***Organizational Structure and Staffing Pattern.*** – The Board shall
14 determine the organizational structure and staffing pattern of the NKTI-Bicol and
15 may reorganize the structure, modify the staffing pattern, and create or abolish
16 divisions, sections, or units in the NKTI-Bicol, subject to the approval of the
17 Department of Budget and Management.

18 SEC. 6. ***Program for Indigents.*** – The NKTI-Bicol shall adopt and enforce a
19 program for indigents and allocate not less than forty percent (40%) of the total
20 number of hospital beds for indigent patients.

1 SEC. 7. ***Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within sixty (60) days from
2 the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Health shall, in consultation with the
3 Board of Trustees of the National Kidney and Transplant Institute, formulate and
4 promulgate the rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of
5 this Act.

6 SEC. 8. ***Appropriations.*** – The amount necessary for the establishment, initial
7 operation, and maintenance of the NKTi-Bicol shall be charged against the current
8 Contingent Fund. Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for the continued
9 operation and maintenance of the NKTi-Bicol shall be included in the annual
10 General Appropriations Act.

11 The local government units in the Bicol Region may contribute or donate
12 land, building, equipment and facilities to NKTi-Bicol as may be approved by the
13 respective *Sanggunian*.

14 SEC. 9. ***Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, orders, proclamations, rules
15 and regulations, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby
16 repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

17 SEC. 10. ***Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after
18 its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

19 Approved,