



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **3868**



INTRODUCED BY: HON. STEPHEN JAMES T. TAN

EXPLANATORY NOTE

A growing number of patients are diagnosed with cancer each year. As cancer incidence rises, health expenditure in cancer therapy increases. This results in variable access and clinical outcomes predominantly affecting low- to middle-income countries wherein government funding for cancer care is limited. When public access to high-value therapy is inadequate, anticancer treatment is often delayed, prematurely terminated, or in some cases never started due to financial toxicities imposed by rising cancer drug prices.¹

Indeed, despite considerable progress in the discovery and development of new cancer drugs, there are significant disparities in both the availability and timeliness of these medicines worldwide, with poorer countries missing out. Few new cancer drugs were launched in lower-middle or low income countries, and the gap between rich and poor nations widened over the three decades. Such inequities may help explain poor cancer outcomes in many countries, particularly those on the lower end of the income scale.²

Moreover, the Philippines is still dependent on sourcing cancer medicines from abroad due to the unavailability of local cancer medicines and the exclusion of some cancer medicines to the national formulary, thus, making antineoplastic drugs expensive since these drugs are made and formulated abroad.

In this regard, this bill seeks to alleviate the foregoing predicament by providing an automatic or expedited licensing and registration of cancer and related care medicines while ensuring their availability at affordable prices. Foregoing considered; the passage of this Bill is earnestly sought.


HON. STEPHEN JAMES T. TAN
Representative, First District of Samar

¹ Fernandez, Rey Arturo & Ting, Frederic Ivan. (10 May 2023) Achieving health equity in cancer care in the Philippines. PubMed Central. <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/> (Last accessed August 15, 2025)

² Global analysis reveals disparities in access to new cancer drugs. News-Medical.Net. [Global analysis reveals disparities in access to new cancer drugs](#) (Last accessed August 15, 2025)



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AN ACT INCREASING ACCESS TO CANCER AND RELATED CARE MEDICINES BY MANDATING AN AUTOMATIC OR EXPEDITED LICENSING AND REGISTRATION PROCESS OF ANTINEOPLASTIC DRUGS SOURCED OVERSEAS, WHILE ENSURING THEIR AVAILABILITY AT AFFORDABLE PRICES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11215, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "NATIONAL INTEGRATED CANCER CONTROL ACT"

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. This Act shall be known as the "Increased Access to Cancer and Related Care Medicines Act".

SECTION 2. Section 25 of RA 11215, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

"Section 23. Cancer and Related Supportive Care Medicines. - The DOH, and other concerned government agencies shall implement reforms supporting early access to essential medicines, innovative medicines and health technologies, to ensure highest possible chance of survival among people with cancer. The reforms include facilitating quick access to drugs for compassionate use and developing a more responsive system for effectively addressing emergency cases.

The FDA shall create a dedicated and streamlined process for the **AUTOMATIC** licensing **AND REGISTRATION** of innovator and generic cancer medication prepared in the Philippines as well as including in the national formulary antineoplastic drugs sourced overseas, subject to appropriate quality checks and compliance with minimum standards, such as, but not limited to, being approved and used for cancer treatment in other countries. Said overseas antineoplastic drug or "onco-drugs" are currently being prescribed to cancer patients in the Philippines due to its effectiveness in treating cancer patients.

MOREOVER, THE DOH SHALL ENSURE SUFFICIENT SUPPLY AND AVAILABILITY OF SAID MEDICINES AT REGIONAL, DISTRICT, PROVINCIAL, CITY AND MUNICIPAL HEALTH CENTERS AT AFFORDABLE PRICES”

SECTION 3. Implementing Rules and Regulations. Within sixty (60) days from the promulgation of this Act, the Department of Health (DOH), and other relevant agencies and stakeholders shall issue such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the purpose of this Act.

SECTION 4. Appropriations. For the initial implementation of this Act, the amount necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act shall be included in the annual budget from the current year’s appropriations of the DOH. Thereafter, the amount necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Fund.

SECTION 5. Separability Clause. If any provision of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, all other remaining provisions not otherwise affected shall remain effective.

SECTION 6. Repealing Clause. All other laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules and regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof that are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended, accordingly.

SECTION 7. Effectivity. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,