

TWENTIETH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL No. 4498



Introduced by REPRESENTATIVE CLAUDINE DIANA D. BAUTISTA-LIM

**AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE NATIONAL IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM,
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE IMMUNIZATION AGENDA
2030, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Vaccination is among the most effective public health interventions, preventing 4–5 million deaths annually worldwide. However, despite the Philippines' long-standing National Immunization Program (NIP), challenges remain, such as outbreaks of measles and polio, vaccine hesitancy, supply disruptions, and persistent inequities in access to vaccines, particularly in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas (GIDAs).

In 2020, the World Health Organization and its partners launched the Immunization Agenda 2030 (IA2030), a global strategy to reduce vaccine-preventable diseases, strengthen immunization systems, and achieve universal health coverage through equitable access to vaccines.¹ After initially focusing on childhood vaccine preventable diseases, the need to increase the scope of protection provided by vaccines to older children, adolescents and adults, especially the elderly, is becoming more apparent.

This proposed measure seeks to institutionalize the country's commitment to IA2030 by:

- Expanding immunization across the life course—from infants to the elderly;
- Ensuring equity through the establishment of a Vaccine Equity Fund;
- Strengthening governance via a National Immunization Council;
- Establishing a National Immunization Registry integrated with electronic health records;

¹ *Essential programme on immunization*. (2025, September 5). <https://www.who.int/teams/immunization-vaccines-and-biologicals/essential-programme-on-immunization/>

- Supporting LGUs with incentives for high coverage and technical support for catch-up campaigns;
- Combating misinformation and vaccine hesitancy through nationwide IEC programs.

The urgency of this measure cannot be overstated. The COVID-19 pandemic underscored the importance of resilient immunization systems. Institutionalizing IA2030 within Philippine law ensures that vaccination becomes a national priority for health security across all generations.

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


REP. CLAUDINE DIANA D. BAUTISTA-LIM
DUMPER PTDA Partylist

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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 National
Immunization Program Act.**”

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is the policy of the State to protect the right
to health of every Filipino by:

- a. Ensuring equitable access to life-saving vaccines across all populations;
- b. Reducing morbidity and mortality from vaccine-preventable diseases;
- c. Strengthening immunization systems as part of national health security;
and
- d. Aligning Philippine immunization goals with the World Health
Organization’s Immunization Agenda 2030 (IA2030).

SEC. 3. Strengthening the National Immunization Program (NIP). – The
Department of Health (DOH) shall:

- a. Expand immunization coverage across all age groups;
- b. Ensure uninterrupted vaccine supply and nationwide cold-chain logistics;
- c. Establish and maintain a National Immunization Registry interoperable
with electronic health records;
- d. Conduct annual catch-up campaigns for zero-dose and under-immunized
children; and
- e. Deploy mobile health teams to serve GIDAs and vulnerable populations.

SEC. 4. Creation of the National Immunization Technical Advisory Group. –
A National Immunization Technical and Advisory Group (NITAG) shall be created to

serve as a technical and independent multi-disciplinary advisory body to provide evidence-based policy and program decisions on immunization and vaccines to the DOH. The NITAG shall be composed of experts from the field of pediatrics, infectious diseases, epidemiology, public health, health economy, and affiliate agencies such as the Formulary Executive Council, Food and Drug Administration, Philippine Nurses Association, Philippine Pharmacists Association, Inc. and the National Institute of Health.

The NITAG shall have the following functions:

- a. To advise the DOH in the formulation of policies, plans, and strategies for research and development of the existing and new vaccines, and the vaccine delivery technology;
- b. To conduct policy analysis, review of the program data and evidence to provide evidence-based technical advice and recommendations for the development of appropriate and sustainable immunization policies, guidelines, strategies, and approaches related to the Immunization Program and vaccine delivery technology; and
- c. To review the position papers, studies, international guidelines, and recommendations from internationally acknowledged resources for possible adoption in the country's policies and plans for the NITAG.

SEC. 5. Vaccine Equity Fund. – A Vaccine Equity Fund is hereby established to finance:

- a. Procurement, distribution, and administration of vaccines;
- b. Outbreak response immunization campaigns;
- c. Support for vulnerable populations such as senior citizens, indigents, indigenous peoples, and low-income groups.

SEC. 6. Addressing Vaccine Hesitancy. – The DOH, in coordination with Department of Education, Department of Interior and Local Government, and civil society, shall implement nationwide information, education, and communication campaigns to combat misinformation, promote vaccine confidence, and strengthen public trust in immunization.

SEC. 7. Penalties. – Any public or private health facility or personnel found guilty of vaccine misuse, misappropriation, or unjust denial of access to eligible populations shall be liable under this Act, without prejudice to penalties under Republic Act No. 3720, Republic Act No. 9711, and other applicable laws.

Sec. 8. Annual Report. – The DOH shall submit to the Office of the President of the Philippines, the Senate Committee on Health and Demography, and the House of Representatives Committee on Health on or before the end of every year, or upon

the request of any of the aforesaid committees of Congress, a report giving detailed status of the implementation of this Act.

Sec. 9. Appropriations. – The amount necessary to carry out the implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriation for the expanded program on the immunization of DOH. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

Sec. 10. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – The DOH shall, in consultation with National Immunization Committee, issue the rules and regulations within 90 days from the effectivity of this Act.

Sec. 11. Separability Clause. – If any provision of this Act is held invalid, the other provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

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

Approved,