



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 4868

Introduced by Representative Nelson S. Legacion
Third Congressional District, Camarines Sur

EXPLANATORY NOTE

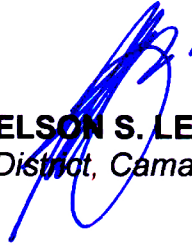
This proposed legislation aims to bridge a critical gap in the nation's healthcare system by seamlessly integrating accessible and affordable dental services into its existing Primary Healthcare Approach. This bill seeks formal recognition of oral health being a vital component of overall well-being, and its promotion is a fundamental responsibility of the State.

The initiative finds strong support in the 1987 Philippine Constitution, which mandates the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people. This is further reinforced by the *Universal Health Care Act* (Republic Act No. 11223), a landmark law emphasizing a comprehensive approach to healthcare for all Filipinos.

This bill will significantly benefit the public by bringing essential dental care closer to communities. Decentralizing dental services from large hospitals to local health units will make care more accessible and affordable, particularly for those in underserved and rural areas. This proactive strategy promotes preventive dental healthcare, a crucial and cost-effective method for reducing the prevalence of oral diseases and their associated complications, which can lead to more serious systemic health issues.

A similar measure was previously filed and approved by the House Committee on Health in the 19th Congress, sponsored by Representatives Yedda Marie Romualdez, Jude Acidre, Ann Matibag, Patrick Vargas, Gus Tambunting, and Salvador Pleyto, and by Senators Juan Edgardo Angara and Mark Villar. This established support underscores the broad legislative consensus on the bill's importance.

In light of this established support and the clear public health benefits, the immediate passage of this measure is earnestly sought to ensure a healthier and more productive Filipino population.



NELSON S. LEGACION
Representative, Third District, Camarines Sur



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AN ACT CREATING A DENTAL SERVICE IN EVERY CITY OR MUNICIPAL HEALTH UNIT AS PART OF THE PRIMARY HEALTH CARE APPROACH IN THE DELIVERY OF HEALTHCARE SERVICES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* This Act shall be known as the "*The Dental Health Services Act.*"

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is the policy of the State to pursue the Primary Healthcare Approach in the delivery of health services and to undertake the appropriate health human resources development for this policy as well as to promote preventive dental healthcare.

SECTION 3. *Creation of Dental Service.* - As part of the Primary Health Care Approach, there is hereby created a dental service in every city or municipal health unit, under the supervision of the Department of Health (DOH).

SECTION 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Health (DOH) shall promulgate the Implementing rules and regulations for the proper Implementation of this Act.

SECTION 5. *Appropriations.* - The amount necessary for the Initial implementation of this Act shall be funded from the current fiscal year's appropriation for the Department of Health. Thereafter, such amount as may be necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 6. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,