

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5556



Introduced by: Hon. Keith Micah "Atty. Mike" D.L. Tan

AN ACT
APPROPRIATING THE AMOUNT OF ONE BILLION PESOS (PHP1,000,000,000.00)
FOR THE CANCER ASSISTANCE FUND UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11215,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "NATIONAL INTEGRATED CANCER CONTROL ACT",
TO SUPPORT THE CANCER MEDICINE AND TREATMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 11, Article XIII of the 1987 Constitution of the Philippines provides that, "The State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost. There shall be priority for the needs of the underprivileged sick, elderly, disabled, women, and children. The State shall endeavor to provide free medical care to paupers."

Cancer has become a serious public health issue, which claims thousands of lives each year. It has likewise become a serious economic burden, the treatment of which amounts to several billions of pesos in healthcare and treatment cost.

According to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) report, cancer ranked as the second leading cause of mortality in 2022, with lung, breast, and liver cancers topping the mortality list, as reported by the WHO International Agency for Research on Cancer - Global Cancer Observatory (IARC - GCO).¹

The incidence and mortality rate of cancer in the country has been increasing in the past three decades. This trend is expected to continue if organized and sustained specialized cancer treatment is not initiated.

The cost of cancer treatment can range from P120,000 to as much as over P1 million. The estimated price of chemotherapy cost per session, depending on the cancer type, meanwhile starts at Php20,000 to Php120,000.² The examination by Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) is burdensome even to middle-income patients, what more to the poor patients. This is why cancer has gained a reputation as the disease for the rich even though it can afflict anybody regardless of economic status.

¹ [https://www.who.int/philippines/news/detail/14-02-2024-doh--who-launch-2024-2028-national-integrated-cancer-control-program-\(niccp\)-strategic-framework](https://www.who.int/philippines/news/detail/14-02-2024-doh--who-launch-2024-2028-national-integrated-cancer-control-program-(niccp)-strategic-framework)

² <https://www.pids.gov.ph/details/news/in-the-news/high-treatment-costs-a-death-sentence-for-many-ph-cancer-patients>

Republic Act No. 11215 or the National Integrated Cancer Control Act (NICCA) was signed into law in 2019 to prevent cancer and improve cancer survivorship by scaling up programs and investments for better and accurate screening, detection, diagnosis, treatment, care and rehabilitation. It aims to make cancer treatment and care more affordable.

The law provides for a Cancer Assistance Fund (CAF) but no amount has been specifically allocated for it and relies on fund raising activities, donations and solicitations.

The CAF aims to complement and supplement existing financial support mechanisms exclusive for cancer patients, persons living with cancer, and cancer survivors. Pursuant to the JMC, which was released on 28 September 2022, the CAF shall likewise fund outpatient and inpatient cancer control services, including but not limited to diagnostics, therapeutic procedures, and other cancer medicines needed for the treatment and management of cancer and its care-related components.

With the end view of sustaining the provision of affordable cancer care and treatment and ensuring that the CAF will be made accessible to as many cancer patients as possible, this bill seeks to appropriate One billion pesos (Php1,000,000,000.00) annually to the Cancer Assistance Fund to support the cancer medicine and treatment assistance program of the government.

In view thereof, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



Keith Micah "Atty. Mike" D.L. Tan
4th District, Quezon

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5556

Introduced by: Hon. Keith Micah "Atty. Mike" D.L. Tan

AN ACT
APPROPRIATING THE AMOUNT OF ONE BILLION PESOS (PHP1,000,000,000.00)
FOR THE CANCER ASSISTANCE FUND UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11215,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "NATIONAL INTEGRATED CANCER CONTROL ACT",
TO SUPPORT THE CANCER MEDICINE AND TREATMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

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 "Cancer Assistance Fund Act".

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is a declared policy of the State to make cancer treatment and care more equitable and affordable for all, especially for the underprivileged, poor and marginalized Filipinos through the institutionalization of responsive and proactive medicine access program and provision of timely, developmentally appropriate, and high-quality cancer services such as screening, diagnosis, optimal treatment and care, supportive care and palliative care.

SEC. 3. *Appropriations.* - Pursuant to the objective of making cancer care and treatment affordable to all Filipinos, the amount of One Billion Pesos (Php1,000,000,000.00) shall be appropriated to the Cancer Assistance Fund (CAF) as provided under Section 20 of Republic Act No. 11215, otherwise known as the "National Integrated Cancer Control Act".

The funding for the initial Implementation of this Act shall be sourced from any applicable appropriation items under the current General Appropriations Act. For the succeeding years, the amount shall be sourced from the budget of the Department of Health (DOH) under the National Integrated Cancer Control Program.

SEC. 4. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, orders, rules, regulations and other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 5. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,