

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City
20TH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



House Bill No. 6146

Introduced by: **REP. JOEL R. CHUA**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) remains one of the most pressing and costly public health concerns in the country. Thousands of Filipinos are diagnosed with chronic kidney disease each year, many of whom eventually require long-term dialysis to survive.

However, access to dialysis treatment remains uneven and insufficient, particularly in far-flung and underserved localities. The high cost of dialysis sessions combined with limited availability of machines and overcrowded hospital facilities continues to place a heavy burden on patients and their families, often forcing them to choose between life-saving treatment and financial ruin.

This bill seeks to address these gaps by establishing dialysis clinics in all national, regional, provincial, and city hospitals across the Philippines. By ensuring that each government hospital is equipped with adequate machines, supplies, and trained medical personnel, the State will be able to provide reliable and accessible dialysis services nationwide. **Priority will be given to areas currently lacking public dialysis centers, thereby expanding healthcare access to the most vulnerable communities.**

The measure also mandates **free dialysis treatments for indigent patients**, in coordination with the Department of Health (DOH), PhilHealth, and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD). This ensures that no Filipino suffering from ESRD is denied the chance to live simply because they cannot afford treatment.

By enacting the **Public Dialysis Centers Act**, Congress affirms the State's duty to safeguard the people's right to health and to ensure equitable access to life-saving medical care. This measure is a vital step toward building a healthcare system that is accessible, compassionate, and responsive to the needs of every Filipino.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this legislative measure is earnestly sought.


JOEL R. CHUA

Representative, 3rd District, Manila

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AN ACT ESTABLISHING DIALYSIS CENTERS IN ALL NATIONAL, REGIONAL, PROVINCIAL AND CITY HOSPITALS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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 "*Public Dialysis Centers Act*".

Section 2. *Declaration of Policy* - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to safeguard and advance the people's right to health and to promote a culture of health consciousness. To this end, the State shall ensure that all patients suffering from End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) receive timely, adequate, and appropriate medical care. The State shall establish and maintain accessible dialysis facilities nationwide and guarantee the provision of free dialysis treatments, thereby ensuring equitable access to life-saving renal care for all.

Section 3. *Establishment of Dialysis Clinics in all National, Regional, Provincial and City Hospitals* - There shall be established dialysis clinics in all national, regional, provincial, and city hospitals in the country. The dialysis clinics shall be equipped with sufficient machines, equipment, paraphernalia, and supplies, and staffed with the appropriate number of medical and other personnel.

Priority shall be given to localities without existing accessible public dialysis centers.

The Department of Health (DOH), in coordination with local government units and other relevant government agencies, shall spearhead the establishment of these clinics.

Section 4. *Free Dialysis Treatment to Indigent Patients* - The DOH, in coordination with the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), shall ensure that indigent patients are accorded free dialysis treatments in national, regional, or provincial hospitals.

For this purpose, "indigent patient" refers to a patient who has no visible means of income, or whose income is insufficient for the subsistence of his family, as identified by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

Section 5. *Authority to Receive Donations and Exemption from Donor's Taxes, Customs, and Tariff Duties* - The DOH shall have the authority to receive donations, gifts, and bequests to augment the funding for the establishment of the dialysis clinics created in accordance with this Act. All donations, contributions, or endowments which may be made by persons or entities to the dialysis clinics in national, regional, provincial and city hospitals and the importation of medical equipment and machineries, spare parts and other medical equipment used solely and exclusively by the dialysis clinics shall be exempt from income or donor's taxes, any other direct or indirect taxes, wharfage fees and other charges and restrictions.

Section 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations* - Within sixty (60) days from the implementation of this Act, the Department of Health (DOH), upon consultation with relevant stakeholders, shall issue the implementing rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

Section 7. *Appropriations* - An initial amount of Five Billion Pesos (Php 5,000,000,000.00) shall be appropriated for the implementation of this Act.

Thereafter, the necessary fund for the proper implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

Section 8. *Separability* - If any provision or part of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall continue to be in full force and effect.

Section 9. *Repealing Clause* - All laws, executive orders, and administrative orders or parts thereof inconsistent with any provision of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

Section 10. *Effectivity Clause* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the online version of the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation or with an established internet website presence.

Approved,