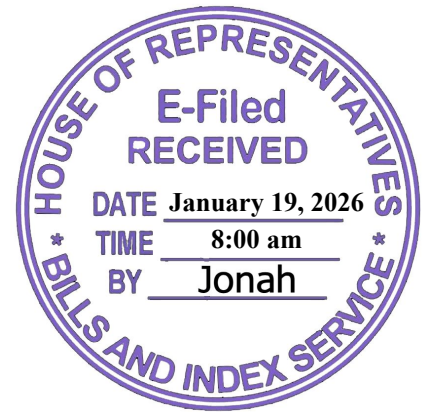




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



House Bill No. 7142

Introduced by CIBAC Party-List Representative
EDUARDO "BRO. EDDIE" C. VILLANUEVA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to provide medical and financial support to patients affected with bleeding disorders.

In other countries like India and Malaysia, free treatment is given to citizens who have bleeding disorders. In the Philippines, however, so much has to be improved in the delivery of medical care to those affected with bleeding disorders. It is estimated that around one million Filipinos are affected by Hemophilia, von Willebrand Disease and other bleeding disorders yet only around 1,500 have been registered with the Philippine Hemophilia Foundation. This is partly due to the lack of awareness and understanding on this group of medical conditions.

Bleeding disorder is a genetic condition where the blood does not clot properly. It is caused by deficiency of proteins in the blood called clotting factors. There are 13 factors in the blood, and when one of it is missing or is deficient, it results in a bleeding disorder.

People with bleeding disorders can bleed for longer than normal, and some may experience spontaneous bleeding into joints, muscles, or other parts of their bodies. Women with bleeding disorders may experience menorrhagia (excessive menstruation) and post-partum hemorrhage, on top of other bleeding problems.

The most known of this group of medical conditions is Hemophilia, classified as Hemophilia A (Factor VIII deficiency) and Hemophilia B (Factor IX deficiency), which occurs mostly in males. But the most prevalent is von Willebrand Disease (deficiency in von Willebrand factor), which affects around 1 percent of the population - both males and females. Other factor deficiency disorders are: 1, II, V, VII, X, XI, XIII. (Source: World Federation of Hemophilia).

Bleeding disorders like Hemophilia, von Willebrand Disease and other factor deficiencies are usually inherited and genetic. Thus, there may be multiple members

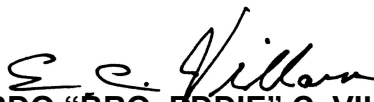
in a family affected by these conditions and they will have it for life. There is no known cure yet for bleeding disorders.

The World Health Organization and the Department of Health cited post-partum hemorrhage as one of the top causes of maternal deaths. Incidentally, the Philippines did not meet the Millennium Development Goal on maternal health. It is very possible that a big percentage of those mothers who died of post-partum hemorrhage had undiagnosed bleeding disorders.

Bleeding disorders are treated by replacing the missing or deficient factors either through blood products such as cryo-precipitate, cryo-supernate, fresh frozen plasma, packed red blood cells (RBC) and whole blood or by manufactured plasma-derived factor concentrates and recombinant (genetically engineered) factor concentrates.

The cost of treatment is very high, and therefore, inaccessible to majority of Filipino patients. Many of them suffer with chronic pain and deformities in the joints because of lack of access to proper treatment. Availability of factor concentrates in the country is also inconsistent.

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


EDUARDO "BRO. EDDIE" C. VILLANUEVA



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HOUSE BILL NO. 7142

Introduced by CIBAC Party-List Representative
EDUARDO "BRO. EDDIE" C. VILLANUEVA

AN ACT
PROVIDING A STANDARD OF CARE FOR THE TREATMENT OF PERSONS
WITH BLEEDING DISORDERS, ESTABLISHING TREATMENT CENTERS
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the "*Bleeding Disorder*
2 *Standards of Care Act.*"
3

4 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State:

- 5 a) To ensure the adequate treatment of hemophilia at the lowest possible cost
6 and endeavor to make them available for free to indigent patients;
7 b) To ensure the establishment of treatment centers in public hospitals; and
8 c) To establish a standard of care so that patients with severe bleeding disorders
9 can receive necessary and appropriate medical care.
10

11 **SEC. 3. Definition of Terms.** - The following words and phrases when used in
12 this Act shall have the meanings given to them in this Section unless the context clearly
13 indicates otherwise:

- 14 a) Bleeding Disorder refers to a medical condition characterized by a severe
15 deficiency or absence of one or more essential blood clotting proteins in the
16 human blood, often called factors, including all forms of hemophilia, von
17 Willebrand disease, and other bleeding disorders which result in
18 uncontrollable bleeding or abnormal blood clotting;
19 b) Blood clotting product refers to an intravenously administered medicine
20 manufactured from human plasma, recombinant biotechnology techniques
21 and other processes, approved for distribution by the Food and Drugs
22 Administration (FDA), and which is used for the treatment and prevention of
23 symptoms associated with bleeding disorders. The term includes, but is not
24 limited to:
25 1) Factor VIIa, Factor VIII and Factor IX products;
26 2) Von Willebrand Factor products;

- 3) Prothrombin complex concentrates;
 - 4) Activated prothrombin complex concentrates; and
 - 5) Other products approved by the BFAD for the treatment of bleeding disorders and associated inhibitors.
- c) Financially Incapacitated Patient refers to a patient who is not classified as indigent, but who demonstrates clear inability to pay or spend for necessary expenditures for services or medical treatment, laboratory testing of blood and/or coagulation studies, or blood coagulating products and/or ancillary infusion equipment, as assessed by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), local government social worker or the medical social worker of the health facility;
- d) Indigent Patient refers to a patient who has no visible means of income, or whose income is insufficient for the subsistence of his or her family, as assessed by the DSWD, local government social worker or the medical social worker of the health facility;
- e) Hemophilia refers to a human bleeding disorder caused by a hereditary deficiency of the Factor VIII, Factor IX or Factor XI blood clotting protein in human blood
- f) Von Willebrand disease refers to a human bleeding disorder caused by a hereditary deficiency or abnormality of the von Willebrand Factor in human blood.

SEC. 4. State Treatment Facilities. - The State shall establish hemophilia treatment facilities in key cities and regions nationwide in designated hospitals with Cancer and Hematology Departments.

Each Hemophilia Treatment Facility shall provide to all hemophilia patients:

- a) Care by qualified hematologists and medical doctors and shall also provide free of charge the necessary blood clotting products and ancillary infusion equipment necessary for the infusion of such blood clotting products;
- b) A room exclusively for hemophilia patients; and
- c) A clinical coagulation laboratory for the screening, diagnosis, provisional diagnosis and treatment of bleeding disorders or suspected bleeding disorders and such services shall be provided free of charge to all indigent patients and financially incapacitated patients.

SEC. 5. Funding. - The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be sourced from the current budget of the DOH. Thereafter, the funds necessary for the continuous implementation of this Act in the ensuing years shall be included in the General Appropriations Act.

The funds given to the treatment facilities shall be used as follows:

- a) Five percent (5%) shall be used for the maintenance of the rooms that will be used exclusively for hemophilia patients;
- b) Ninety percent (90%) shall be used exclusively for necessary blood clotting products and ancillary infusion equipment necessary for the infusion of such blood clotting products to hemophilia patients; and

1 c) Five percent (5%) shall be used for blood screening of hemophilia patients.
2 Each treatment facility established under this Act shall submit an annual
3 report to the DOH on the utilization of the amount given to it.
4

5 **SEC. 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - Within sixty (60) days from
6 the approval of this Act, the DOH, in consultation with hemophilia groups and other
7 relevant stakeholders, shall promulgate the rules and regulations to implement the
8 provisions of this Act.
9

10 **SEC. 7. Separability Clause.** – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared
11 unconstitutional, the remainder hereof or any provisions not affected thereby shall
12 remain in force and effect.
13

14 **SEC. 8. Repealing Clause.** – Any law, presidential decree or issuance,
15 executive order, letter of instruction, rule, or regulation inconsistent with the provisions
16 of this Act is hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

17 **SEC. 9. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete
18 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.
19

20 *Approved,*