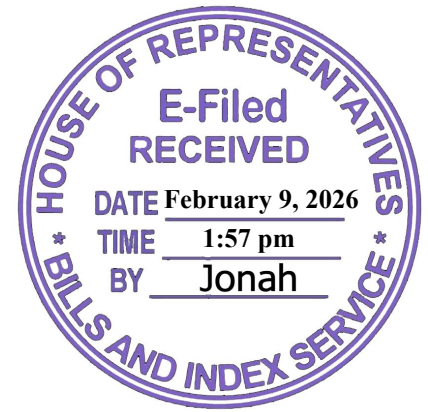




Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7662



Introduced by Representatives Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez, Yedda Marie K. Romualdez, Andrew Julian K. Romualdez and Jude A. Acidre

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR COMPREHENSIVE COUNSELLING, REHABILITATION, WORK REINTEGRATION, AND FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES FOR CANCER SURVIVORS AND THEIR FAMILIES, STRENGTHENING THE NATIONAL MECHANISMS FOR CANCER SURVIVORSHIP CARE AND SUPPORT, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Cancer remains a leading cause of death globally and in the Philippines, and advances in diagnosis and treatment mean that an increasing number of Filipinos survive cancer. While survival is an important milestone, it is only the beginning of a new journey — one that often involves chronic health issues, late or long-term side-effects, psychosocial challenges, vocational disruption, financial hardship and the need for reintegration into work and community life.

The current policy in the Philippines, particularly under the Republic Act No. 11215 (National Integrated Cancer Control Act) addresses prevention, treatment and care, including survivorship in broad terms. However, there remains a gap in systematic, dedicated support for survivors and their families in the areas of rehabilitation, counselling, return-to-work, and social reintegration.

This proposed “Cancer Survivorship Support Act” seeks to fill that gap by institutionalizing an integrated framework of support services, data-monitoring infrastructure, employer-engagement and family-care mechanisms, thereby aligning with international best practices in survivorship care. The proposed measure seeks to:

1. Ensure that cancer survivors and their families receive comprehensive psychosocial counselling, rehabilitation therapies, and health-promotion services to address the functional and emotional impact of cancer;
2. Help survivors return to or remain in productive employment through retraining, job-placement, and employer-accommodation programs;
3. Provide adequate support to the families and primary caregivers of survivors, recognizing that survivorship affects the household as a whole;
4. Establish a monitoring, data, and research infrastructure to generate information on survivor outcomes, employment status, late effects, and quality of life, thereby informing policy and program design;
5. Engage the private sector and employers in adopting survivor-friendly workplace practices that promote the continued labor market participation of cancer survivors;
6. Secure dedicated and sustainable funding for survivorship programs to ensure continuity and prevent fragmented implementation; and
7. Safeguard the rights, dignity, health, and economic opportunities of survivors and their families by advancing a life-course and continuum-based approach to survivorship care.

This bill provides a comprehensive legislative framework for supporting cancer survivors and their families in the Philippines — moving beyond treatment to rehabilitation, reintegration and quality-of-life. By institutionalizing services, employer-linkages, data-monitoring and dedicated funding, this bill will contribute to national goals of inclusive health, labor participation, social justice and human dignity.

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



FERDINAND MARTIN G. ROMUALDEZ



YEDDA MARIE K. ROMUALDEZ



ANDREW JULIAN K. ROMUALDEZ



JUDE A. ACIDRE



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FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

*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
Survivorship Support Act*”.

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to recognize the growing number of cancer survivors and their families, and to safeguard their dignity, welfare and productive participation in society. The State affirms its commitment to promote social justice, inclusive health care, enabling employment and reintegration opportunities, and family-centered support for medically treated persons who have overcome or live with cancer.

Pursuant to Article II, Section 15, Article XII, Section 1, and Article XIII, Section 1 of the 1987 Constitution, the State shall adopt measures to protect and promote the health and welfare of its citizens, including those whose lives have been altered by cancer. In furtherance thereof, the State shall ensure that every cancer survivor is afforded access to appropriate counselling, rehabilitation, post-treatment care, and reintegration into the labor force or community life, and that the families or carers of survivors are provided with support services to ease their burden.

SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act.

- a. **Survivorship Care Plan** means a documented care framework developed by a health professional in consultation with the survivor, covering monitoring, management of late effects, psychosocial support, vocational or occupational reintegration and health promotion;
- b. **Rehabilitation services** include physical therapy, occupational therapy, psychosocial counselling, nutritional guidance, physical activity programs and other allied health interventions aimed at restoring functional capacity and well-being of the survivor; and
- c. **Work-reintegration support** means programs and interventions assisting survivors in re-entering or remaining in the labor force, including skills training, job placement, employer engagement, workplace accommodations and return-to-work counselling.

SECTION 4. *Survivorship Counselling and Rehabilitation Services.* —

The DOH, through its regional offices and in cooperation with hospitals, cancer care centers, local government units (LGUs), and accredited non-government organizations, shall provide comprehensive survivorship counselling services to cancer survivors and their families. Such services shall include, but not be limited to: psychosocial counselling, peer-support group facilitation, information on late- and long-term effects of cancer, health-promotion education and transition-to-survivor care.

The DOH and appropriate agency shall ensure the availability of rehabilitation services for survivors, including physical and occupational therapy, nutrition and exercise programs, and functional assessments to restore survivors' capacity to engage in daily life and work. These services shall be integrated into the continuum of care and accessible in each region.

Survivors shall, upon completion of primary cancer treatment, be provided with a survivorship care plan developed by a multidisciplinary team in consultation with the survivor. It shall outline follow-up care, screening for late effects, rehabilitation needs and vocational reintegration pathways.

SECTION 5. *Work Reintegration and Employment Support* – The DOH, in collaboration with the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), TESDA, LGUs and private-sector partners, shall establish a Work Reintegration Program for cancer survivors, which shall provide:

- A. Skills assessment, retraining or up-skilling where necessary;
- B. Job-placement assistance or employer-linkage programs;
- C. Workplace accommodation counselling and guidance for survivors and employers; and

D. financial-literacy training or micro-enterprise start-up support for survivors who choose self-employment or entrepreneurship.

Employers shall be encouraged to adopt survivor-friendly workplace policies, such as flexible scheduling, phased return-to-work programs and reasonable accommodation, consistent with existing labor laws and good-practice standards.

SECTION 6. *Support Services for Families and Carers.* – The DOH, together with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and LGUs, shall provide caregiver support services, including but not limited to: caregiver training, peer support networks, respite-care arrangements, mental-health counselling for carers and family members, and access to information and referral systems.

The DOH and DSWD shall integrate family-education modules on survivorship issues into existing community-health programs, ensuring that survivor families are equipped to support reintegration and wellbeing.

SECTION 7. *Monitoring, Data and Research.* – The DOH shall establish and maintain a National Survivorship Registry, in coordination with the cancer registry under Republic Act No. 11215 or the National Integrated Cancer Control Act, capturing data on survivors' demographics, treatment history, late effects, employment status post-treatment and quality-of-life outcomes.

The DOH shall publish annual reports to Congress and to the public, containing survivorship statistics, reintegration outcomes, gaps in services and policy recommendations.

The DOH shall support research grants for survivorship science, including studies on late effects, long-term functional outcomes, return-to-work pathways, mental-health impacts and cost-effectiveness of survivorship programs.

SECTION 8. *Appropriations.* — The amount necessary to implement this Act shall be included in the annual budgets of the DA and DSWD under the General Appropriations Act.

The DOH shall allocate, from the appropriation, funds for regional-level implementation, subsidies for rehabilitation services, grants for work-reintegration initiatives, and support for family-care programs.

The DOH shall submit to Congress, as part of the annual budget process, a Survivorship Implementation Plan outlining regional budgets, performance indicators, coverage targets and program outcomes.

SECTION 9: *Private-Sector and Employer Engagement.* —

A. The DOH, DOLE and DTI shall engage with private-sector employers, industry associations and trade unions to promote survivor-friendly employment practices and incentivize companies to adopt return-to-work program, workplace accommodations and employer-based counselling or reintegration assistance.

B. Employers who adopt recognized survivor-reintegration policies and submit compliance reports to DOLE shall be eligible for tax incentives or subsidies as may be provided under law.

SECTION 10. *Penalties.* — Any person, employer, private provider, or entity who willfully denies or obstructs a qualified cancer survivor's access to the benefits, programs, or services provided under this Act, or refuses to comply with

the accommodation and reintegration requirements mandated herein, shall, after due process, be subject to the following:

Such violator shall be liable to administrative fines of not less than One Hundred Thousand Pesos (₱100,000.00) but not more than One Million Pesos (₱1,000,000.00), and/or the suspension or revocation of licenses, permits, incentives, or subsidies granted under this Act, as may be determined by the appropriate government agency.

SECTION 11. *Separability Clause.* – If, for any reason, any part or provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, other parts of provisions thereof not affected shall thereby continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 12. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, letters of instruction, proclamations or administrative regulations that are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 13. *Effectivity.* - Notwithstanding the non-issuance of the implementing rules and regulations, this Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,