



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **8216**



Introduced by Representative Crispin Diego “Ping” D. Remulla

AN ACT
PROVIDING MONTHLY MAINTENANCE MEDICATION SUPPORT FOR
SENIOR CITIZENS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XIII, Section 11 of the 1987 Constitution states 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 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.”

For many elderly Filipinos, retirement is not a time of comfort but a daily struggle to afford basic necessities, including life-sustaining maintenance medications. These medicines are often not optional and are prescribed to manage chronic conditions and ensure their survival. However, countless senior citizens are forced to skip doses or forgo treatments because they cannot afford them.

This measure seeks the establishment of a regular government subsidy for senior citizens, specifically for their prescribed maintenance medicines. Through this measure, the government provides a consistent and reliable source of support that alleviates the financial

burden on the elderly, promotes preventive care, reduces costly hospitalizations, and affirms the dignity and worth of our senior citizens.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Remulla', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

CRISPIN DIEGO "PING" D. REMULLA



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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “Monthly Maintenance
2 Medication Support Act for Senior Citizens.”

3 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – In consonance with Article XIII, Sec. 11 of the
4 Constitution which provides that the State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive
5 approach to health and other social services available to all people at affordable cost, giving
6 priority to the underprivileged, sick, elderly, disabled, women and children, it is hereby
7 declared the policy of the State to protect and promote the health and well-being of elderly
8 citizens for their continued meaningful contribution and participation in the society. This Act
9 seeks to provide monthly financial assistance to senior citizens, enabling them to access and
10 afford necessary maintenance medications, thereby enhancing their quality of life and health
11 outcomes.

12 **SEC. 3. Monthly Maintenance Medication Support.** – The government shall provide
13 monthly financial support amounting to PHP 2,000.00 to all senior citizens, hereinafter referred
14 to as “beneficiaries,” who are qualified and registered as such under Republic Act No. 9994,
15 otherwise known as the “Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010.”

16 **SEC. 4. Eligibility and Registration.** – To qualify for the Monthly Maintenance
17 Medication Support, a senior citizen must meet the following criteria:

- a. Be a Filipino citizen and a registered senior citizen as defined in Republic Act No. 9994;
- b. Submit an application to the Department of Health (DOH) or its designated agency, accompanied by a valid prescription for maintenance medications issued by a licensed medical practitioner within the last six (6) months from the date of application; and
- c. Once approved, beneficiaries shall be issued a Monthly Maintenance Medication Support Card.

SEC. 5. Use of the Monthly Support. – The Monthly Maintenance Medication Support shall be used exclusively to purchase prescribed maintenance medications, including but not limited to medicines for chronic illnesses, vitamins, and supplements from all public or private pharmaceutical establishments upon presentment of a prescription validly issued within the last six (6) months from the date of purchase. The Monthly Maintenance Medication Support shall not be transferrable to anyone other than the person to whom the same is provided as named in the Monthly Maintenance Medication Support Card. Any unused portion of the support shall not be convertible to cash.

SEC. 6. Implementation and Coordination. – The Department of Health (DOH) shall be responsible for the implementation of this Act and shall coordinate with other relevant agencies, including the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), to ensure the efficient distribution of the Monthly Maintenance Medication Support.

SEC. 7. Digital System Integration. - The DOH, in coordination with the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), shall establish a secure digital platform or card-based system for registration, prescription validation, and benefit disbursement to ensure transparency and accountability.

SEC. 8. Monitoring and Reporting. – The DOH shall establish a monitoring system to track the utilization of the Monthly Maintenance Medication Support and shall submit an annual report to Congress detailing the program’s effectiveness and impact on senior citizens’ health and well-being.

SEC. 9. Penalties. – Any person who commits fraud, misrepresentation, or any form of abuse in the application or use of the Monthly Maintenance Medication Support shall be subject to penalties as prescribed by law.

SEC. 10. Appropriations. – The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

1 **SEC. 11. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – The DOH, in coordination with the
2 DSWD and other relevant agencies, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to
3 effectively implement this Act within ninety (90) days from its effectivity.

4 **SEC. 12. Separability Clause.** - If any clause, sentence, paragraph, or part of this Act
5 shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, other provisions not affected shall remain in full
6 force and effect.

7 **SEC. 13. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations or parts
8 thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

9 **SEC. 14. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its
10 publication in the Official Gazette or in any major newspaper of general circulation in the
11 Philippines.

Approved,