

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 8532



Introduced by Representatives JEFFREY SORIANO and JOCELYN P. TULFO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to provide free dental, vision, and hearing assistive devices to senior citizens and indigent individuals in order to improve their health, dignity, and quality of life.

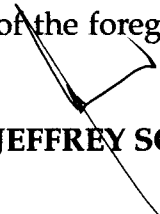
Many Filipinos, particularly the elderly and those with limited financial means, suffer from untreated dental problems, poor eyesight, and hearing loss due to the high cost of dentures, prescription glasses, and hearing aids. These conditions *significantly affect their daily functioning, social participation, and overall well-being.*

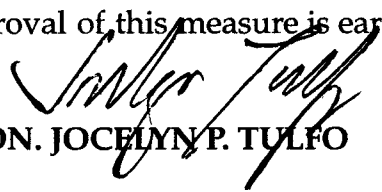
For senior citizens, age-related deterioration in vision, hearing, and oral health is common and often inevitable. Meanwhile, indigent individuals face similar challenges but lack the financial capacity to seek proper diagnosis and treatment.

This measure therefore mandates the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), in coordination with the Department of Health (DOH), to develop and implement a special benefit package that will fully cover the cost of assistive devices such as dentures, prescription eyeglasses, and hearing aids for qualified beneficiaries. Medical and dental consultations necessary for the prescription of these devices shall be conducted in the appropriate hospital departments to ensure that beneficiaries receive proper evaluation and care.

By institutionalizing government support for essential assistive devices, the proposed measure strengthens the State's commitment to accessible and inclusive healthcare. It recognizes that addressing sensory and oral health concerns is a vital component of safeguarding the welfare and dignity of senior citizens and indigent persons.

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


HON. JEFFREY SORIANO


HON. JOCELYN P. TULFO

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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR FREE DENTAL, VISION, AND HEARING ASSISTIVE
DEVICES, INCLUDING DENTURES, PRESCRIPTION GLASSES, AND
HEARING AIDS, TO SENIOR CITIZENS AND INDIGENTS

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 “*Free Health Aids for Seniors Act*”.

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* — It is the policy of the State to adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development that ensures the availability of essential goods, health services, and other social services to all people. In line with its commitment to accessible and inclusive healthcare, the State shall provide assistive devices such as dentures, hearing aids, and prescription glasses. Towards this end, the State shall give full support to the improvement of the total well-being of senior citizens and indigents.

SEC. 3. *Free Dental, Vision, and Hearing Assistive Devices.* — The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), in coordination with the Department of Health (DOH), shall develop and implement a special benefit package that shall fully cover the cost of assistive devices, including but not limited to complete or partial dentures, prescription eyeglasses, and hearing aids, for qualified senior citizens and indigents.

Medical and dental consultations, including the prescription of the assistive devices covered under this Act, shall be conducted in the Ear, Nose, and Throat (ENT), dental, or ophthalmology departments, or, in the case of senior citizens, through the geriatric center of national or local government hospitals.

SEC. 4. *Persons Covered.* — All barangays across the country are hereby mandated to install and maintain high-quality CCTV systems in their respective barangay posts and other critical areas under their jurisdiction, including, but is not limited to, public markets, entrances to barangay roads, covered courts, and

evacuation centers. CCTV units shall be capable of recording clear, high-definition footage suitable for identification and investigative purposes, with night vision and weather-resistant features where necessary. Each area under surveillance must also have visible signage clearly indicating the presence of CCTV cameras to inform the public and promote transparency.

SEC. 5. *Appropriations.* – The appropriations necessary to implement the provisions of this Act and its implementing rules shall be included in the respective budgets of the DOH, the PhilHealth, and the DSWD under the General Appropriations Act (GAA).

SEC. 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within thirty (30) days from the approval of this Act, the DOH and the PhilHealth, in coordination with the National Commission of Senior Citizens (NCSC), the DSWD, and other relevant agencies, shall jointly formulate rules and guidelines necessary for the proper implementation and enforcement of this Act.

SEC. 7. *Separability Clause.* – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions hereof shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 8. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

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

Approved,