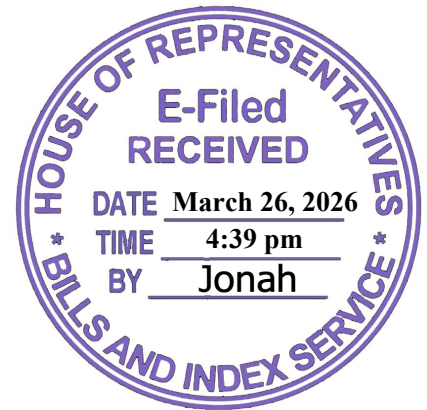


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8802



Introduced by **Representative ERIC G. YAP**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to guarantee free essential medical and dental services for indigent children, in recognition of the State's duty to protect and promote the right to health of every Filipino child.

The reality of poverty creates a formidable barrier between impoverished families and essential clinical care. Data from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) reveals that one (1) in four (4) children globally live in severe child food poverty, and there are approximately two million (2,000,000) children in the Philippines who experience severe child food poverty. The risks attributed to this manifest in preventable illnesses, untreated conditions, and poor oral health outcomes, especially among indigent children who lack regular access to healthcare services.

Regular medical and dental care plays an important role in early detection, and children who receive consistent healthcare support are more likely to grow healthy and have an improved educational performance. However, indigent families often prioritize immediate subsistence over preventive care, which results in delayed treatment and higher long-term health costs.

This proposed measure ensures that essential healthcare becomes accessible at the point of need and reinforces the State's commitment in the health and nutritional security of indigent children.

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


HON. ERIC G. YAP

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8802

Introduced by **Representative ERIC G. YAP**

AN ACT
PROVIDING FREE MEDICAL AND DENTAL SERVICES TO INDIGENT CHILDREN, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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 “*Indigent Children Free Medical and Dental Service Act*”.

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to protect and promote the right to health of children, and to ensure their access to essential healthcare services. Towards this end, the State shall prioritize indigent children in the delivery of accessible, affordable, and quality medical and dental services.

SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act:

a. Indigent children refers to persons below eighteen (18) years of age who have no visible means of support, or whose parents or guardians have no means of providing for their immediate medical and dental needs. They shall be certified as indigent by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD);

b. Medical Services refer to preventive, curative, and rehabilitative health services, including but not limited to consultations, diagnostic services, medicines, and hospitalization; and

c. Dental Services refer to preventive and basic curative dental care, including but not limited to oral examination, prophylaxis, fluoride treatment, tooth extraction.

SEC. 4. *Free Medical Service.* – All hospitals, medical centers, clinics and other health institutions that provide frontline medical services throughout the

Philippines are hereby mandated under this Act to provide free medical treatment to indigent children.

SEC. 5. *Free Dental Service.* – All dental clinics, medical centers and other health institutions that provide frontline dental healthcare throughout the country are mandated under this Act to provide free dental healthcare to indigent children.

SEC. 6. *DSWD and DOH Function.* – The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), in coordination with the Department of Health (DOH), shall be the lead agencies in the implementation of this Act. The DSWD shall determine if the child is indeed an indigent while the DOH shall coordinate with the implementation of the free medical and dental services to indigent children.

SEC. 7. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into law and thereafter.

SEC. 8. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remainder of this Act or any provisions not affected thereby shall remain in force and effect.

SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decrees or issuance, executive orders, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule, or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SEC.10. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from the date of its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,