

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8806



Introduced by **Representative ERIC G. YAP**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to institutionalize monthly maintenance medication support for senior citizens to ensure that they can sustain access to essential medicines needed to manage chronic conditions and preserve their quality of life.

The Philippines continues to experience a steady demographic shift toward an aging population. The Philippine Statistics Authority reported that there were 10.98 million Filipinos aged sixty (60) years and older in 2025, which comprises 9.6% of the country's total population. This number continues to grow due to improvements in life expectancy and healthcare access. However, longevity without adequate health support exposes elderly Filipinos to prolonged vulnerability, particularly in managing age-related illnesses that require continuous treatment and medication.

A study published by the Philippine Academy of Family Physicians reveals that more than sixty percent (60%) of our senior citizens suffer from non-communicable diseases such as cardiovascular diseases, cancers, chronic respiratory diseases, hypertension, diabetes, and arthritis¹, among others. These conditions require consistent medication to prevent complications that may eventually lead to premature death.

While Republic Act (RA) No. 9994, otherwise known as the "*Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010*", provides senior citizens a twenty percent (20%) discount and tax exemptions on essential goods and services which includes medicines, the out-of-pocket costs for maintenance medicines still range from one thousand pesos (P1,000.00) to five thousand pesos (P5,000.00) monthly, sometimes even more, depending on the quantity and type of prescription medicine. This prohibits those without active income and family support from getting the medication they need.

This proposed measure provides a monthly financial support of one thousand pesos (P1,000.00) to senior citizens requiring maintenance medications to augment benefits provided under RA 9994. It ensures that our elderly can adhere to their prescribed medications without sacrificing other basic needs like food and shelter.

¹LIGASON, Weimela, MD. (2025, December 2). *Multimorbidity in Elderly: A Case of Hypertension, Gout, and Diabetes Mellitus in a Resource-Limited Setting*. Philippine Academy of Family Physicians, Inc. <https://thepafp.org/journal/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/PAFP-Journal-63-2-8-11.pdf>

This vital piece of legislation affirms the dignity of senior citizens by recognizing their lifelong contributions and addressing their present needs with compassion and practicality. It advances a health system that values continuity of care, equity in access, and financial protection for our aging population. More importantly, it reflects a society that does not abandon its elderly, but instead stands with them in their most vulnerable years.

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



HON. ERIC G. YAP

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AN ACT
PROVIDING MONTHLY MAINTENANCE MEDICATION SUPPORT FOR SENIOR
CITIZENS, AND PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR

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 “*Monthly Maintenance Medication Support for Senior Citizens Act*”.

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to protect and promote the health and well-being of elderly citizens for their continued meaningful contribution and participation in the society pursuant to Article XIII, Sec. 11 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution. It provides that the State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health and other social services available to all people at affordable cost. To this end, this Act shall provide monthly financial assistance to senior citizens, enabling them to access and afford necessary maintenance medications, thereby enhancing their quality of life and health outcomes.

SEC. 3. *Monthly Maintenance Medication Support.* – The government shall provide monthly financial support amounting to One thousand pesos (P1,000.00) to all senior citizens, hereinafter referred to as “beneficiaries”, who are qualified and registered as such under Republic Act No. 9994, otherwise known as the “*Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010.*”

SEC. 4. *Eligibility and Registration.* – To qualify for the Monthly Maintenance 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 any person other than the person to which 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. *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. 8. *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. 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The DOH, in coordination with the DSWD and other relevant agencies, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to effectively implement this Act within ninety (90) days from its effectivity.

SEC. 10. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not so declared shall remain in force and effect.

SEC. 11. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders and rules, and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 12. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,