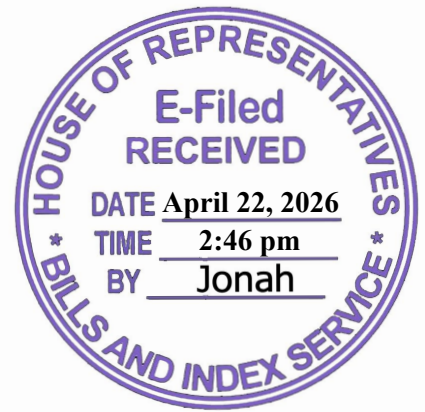


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 8937



Introduced by Representatives JEFFREY SORIANO and JOCELYN P. TULFO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

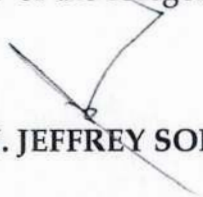
This bill seeks to establish a Ten Billion Peso (P10,000,000,000) Cancer Medicine and Treatment Assistance Fund to provide free cancer medicines and treatment services to indigent and underprivileged Filipino patients. It aims to institutionalize a government-led, systematic approach to cancer care that ensures equitable access to life-saving interventions.

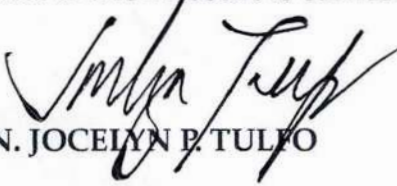
Cancer continues to pose a major public health concern in the Philippines. Data indicate that the country faces a high burden of cancer incidence and mortality, with hundreds of thousands of cases recorded annually. In recent years, cancer has remained among the leading causes of death nationwide, claiming over 100,000 lives in a single year alone. These figures reflect not only the scale of the disease but also the persistent challenges in accessing timely diagnosis, treatment, and care—particularly among economically disadvantaged populations.

In response, the proposed measure affirms the State's duty to safeguard the right to health by ensuring that essential cancer medicines and treatment are made available at no cost to qualified beneficiaries. It establishes a dedicated cancer fund and creates a Cancer Treatment Program to be implemented through the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), in coordination with accredited government hospitals across designated health districts.

By reducing financial barriers to cancer care, this bill seeks to expand access to treatment, improve survival rates, and enhance overall health outcomes for vulnerable Filipinos.

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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Introduced by Representatives JEFFREY SORIANO and JOCELYN P. TULFO

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A CANCER MEDICINE AND TREATMENT ASSISTANCE
FUND FOR INDIGENT AND UNDERPRIVILEGED FILIPINOS

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 “*Cancer Medicine and Treatment Fund for Filipinos*”.

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* — It is hereby a policy of the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people and to adopt and implement a system of effecting the delivery of free medicine and free treatment to indigent and underprivileged cancer patients.

SEC. 3. *Establishment of a Php 10 Billion Cancer Fund and Free Medicine Assistance Program.* — There is hereby created a Ten Billion (Php 10,000,000,000.00) Cancer Fund that can be availed by indigent and underprivileged cancer patients. For the purpose, a Cancer Treatment Program, hereinafter referred to as the “Program”, is established and to be administered by the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) through its accredited government hospitals in each particular congressional district, to be known as the health district.

The program shall be limited to indigent and underprivileged cancer patient beneficiaries to be identified by the PhilHealth in close coordination with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the Department of Health (DOH) and the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG).

SEC. 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* — The PhilHealth, in consultation with the DSWD, DOH, DILG, and the relevant private groups including the association of hospitals and medical institutions and groups of patients, shall promulgate such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the provision of this Act within six (6) months from the effectivity hereof.

SEC. 5. *Appropriations.* — There is hereby appropriated the sum of Ten Billion Pesos (Php 10,000,000,000.00) for the implementation of the Program. The National Government shall subsequently include in the budget of the Department of Health in the General Appropriations Act such amount as may be necessary to carry out the objectives of this Act.

SEC. 6. *Separability Clause.* — If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, other parts or provisions hereof not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 7. *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. 8. *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,