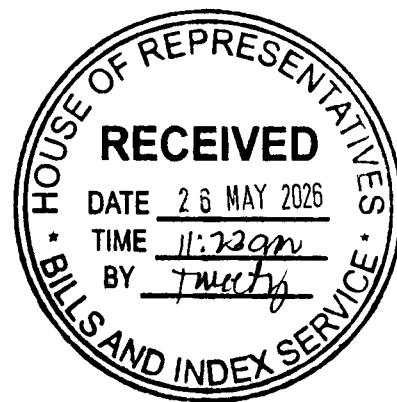


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City
TWENTIETH (20TH) CONGRESS
First Regular Session
HOUSE BILL NO. 9432



Introduced by HON. PHILIP CONRAD “DOK BONG” M. ACOP

**AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR A NATIONAL GOVERNMENT INITIATIVE FOR
TEETH AND INNOVATIVE ORAL HEALTH CARE, THEREBY
STRENGTHENING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 1082, AND
PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The radiant Filipino smile is our national trademark, yet a grim reality hides behind it. Department of Health data reveals that a staggering 92.4% of Filipinos suffer from tooth decay, while 78% battle active gum disease.¹

For decades, oral care has been treated as a secondary cosmetic concern rather than a medical urgency. While RA No. 1082 mandates the designation of a Public Health Dentist in every congressional district,² implementation has fallen critically short: the current dentist-to-patient ratio stands at an alarming 1:53,000.³ The “National Government Initiative for Teeth and Innovative Oral Health Care” or the “NGITI Act of 2026” corrects this imbalance, establishing a state-of-the-art Dental Service Center in every congressional district nationwide.

Modern medicine confirms that poor oral health directly increases the risk of cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and adverse pregnancy outcomes. Yet, for the average Filipino, a dental visit remains an unaffordable luxury. Faced with steep private clinic fees, millions endure chronic pain and resort to self-medication until extraction becomes the only option. This widespread, premature tooth loss damages self-esteem, impairs nutrition, and directly hinders employment opportunities in a service-driven economy. A toothache should never dictate a citizen’s economic future.

¹ “Celebrating Oral Health Month with a Smile-Ready Philippines.” February 1, 2024. Available at: <https://pia.gov.ph/regions/celebrating-oral-health-month-with-a-smile-ready-philippines/>.

² “An Act Strengthening Health and Dental Services in the Rural Areas, and Providing Funds Therefor.”

³ “DOH: Only one dentist for every 53,000 Filipinos”. February 9, 2026. Available at: <https://www.abs-cbn.com/news/health-science/2026/2/9/doh-there-is-only-1-dentist-for-every-53-000-filipinos-1511>.

Public dental care has long been bottlenecked at underfunded Rural Health Units (RHUs), where a single dentist routinely serves up to 90,000 residents using outdated equipment. The NGITI Act shifts this operational weight by creating specialized dental hubs within existing government hospitals or central health facilities in every congressional district.

Smaller barangay units will now act as a screening net, feeding complex cases into these fully equipped district centers. Furthermore, by mandating the creation of permanent, competitive plantilla positions for public health dentists and hygienists, this bill addresses the public sector medical brain drain.

The NGITI Act also actively fulfills the Philippines' commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Specifically, in relation to SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being), this bill strengthens Universal Health Coverage by providing free and subsidized advanced treatments, shielding vulnerable families from catastrophic out-of-pocket health expenses. In relation to SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), this bill modernizes public facilities nationwide, ensuring that Filipinos in remote provinces will have access to the exact same high-tier digital radiography and restorative care as residents of progressive cities.

The NGITI Act executes this vision through three precise, integrated mandates:

1. **Infrastructure & Equipment:** Every congressional district shall establish a Dental Service Center equipped with modern dental chairs, digital X-ray machines, sterilization units, and a continuous supply of clinical materials.
2. **Personnel & Community Reach:** The DOH and DBM shall create permanent positions for at least two (2) Public Health Dentists and two (2) Registered Dental Hygienists per district. Simultaneously, Barangay Health Workers (BHWs) will be trained as community oral health advocates to conduct frontline screenings.
3. **Sustainable Funding:** Initial rollout costs will be drawn from the current DOH budget. Long-term operations, maintenance, and technological modernization are guaranteed permanent funding through integration into the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA).

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


HON. PHILIP CONRAD "DOK BONG" M. ACOP

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. — This Act shall be known as the “**National Government Initiative for Teeth and Innovative Oral Health Care**” or the “**NGITI Act of 2026**”.

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. — It is the policy of the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them. Towards this end, the State shall ensure the equitable distribution of healthcare services by establishing comprehensive, accessible, and high-quality dental and oral care services in every congressional district nationwide, prioritizing preventive dental healthcare and modernizing oral health delivery systems.

SEC. 3. Establishment of a Congressional District Dental Service. — There is hereby established a Dental Service Center in every congressional district throughout the country. This center shall be strategically located within an existing government hospital, apex health facility, or a designated central health unit within the district, and shall serve as the primary referral hub for oral health services in the area.

SEC. 4. Personnel and Staffing Component. — To effectively run the District Dental Service, the Department of Health (DOH), in coordination with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), shall create the necessary permanent positions for the following personnel in each district, which shall include, at the minimum:

1. At least two (2) Public Health Dentists;

2. At least two (2) Registered Dental Hygienists or Technologists; and
3. Adequate administrative and support staff.

The center shall also collaborate with and provide training to Barangay Health Workers (BHWs) within the district to act as community oral health advocates.

SEC. 5. Scope of Services and Equipment. — The District Dental Service shall provide free and subsidized basic to advanced oral health services, including but not limited to, preventive care, oral health education, extractions, restorations, and dental health screenings. The DOH shall ensure that each district center is equipped with modern dental chairs, digital X-ray machines, sterilization equipment, and a consistent supply of dental materials.

SEC. 6. Implementation and Rules and Regulations. — The DOH, in coordination with the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and respective Local Government Units (LGUs), shall issue the necessary rules and regulations within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act for its efficient implementation.

SEC. 7. Funding. — The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current fiscal year's appropriation for the DOH. Thereafter, such amount as may be necessary for the continued operation, maintenance, and modernization of the District Dental Services shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA).

SEC. 8. Separability Clause. — If any part or provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, other provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 9. Repealing Clause. — All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 10. Effectivity. — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,