

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **9589**



Introduced by Representative Reynante U. Arrogancia

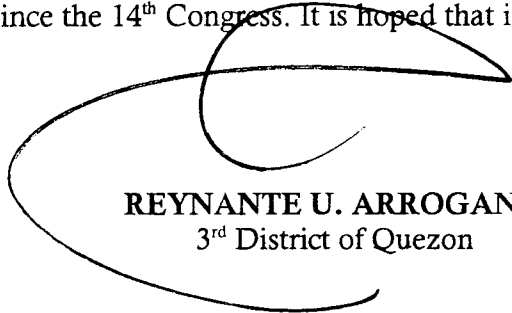
EXPLANATORY NOTE

Dental and oral health services are critically scarce in the Philippines, with a shortage leading to 1 dentist to 53,000 Filipino population reported by the Department of Health in 2026.¹ There is an imbalance with 9 out of 10 Filipino children suffer from tooth decay and other dental problems.²

Poor oral health significantly disrupts working adults – a simple toothache for example, if not treated properly will cause major problems such as impaired concentration, loss of productivity and absences.

This measure seeks to create a dental unit in every Rural Health Unit under the Department of Health as part of the primary approach in the delivery of health services in every community in the country. It seeks to provide preventive dental services to reach vulnerable populations including the rural poor.

Similar versions of this bill have been filed since the 14th Congress. It is hoped that in the 20th Congress, it will be enacted into a law.



REYNANTE U. ARROGANCIA
3rd District of Quezon

¹ DOH Interview thru GMA News (2026). DOH flags critical shortage of dentists nationwide. Accessed on 19 May 2026.

² Ibid.

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **9589**

Introduced by Representative Reynante U. Arrogancia

AN ACT
CREATING A DENTAL UNIT IN EVERY RURAL HEALTH UNIT UNDER THE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AS PART OF THE PRIMARY APPROACH IN THE
DELIVERY OF HEALTH SERVICES AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known as the “Rural Dental Health Act of
2 2026.”
3

4 **SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** – It is hereby declared policy of the State:

- 5 (a) To pursue the Primary Health Care Approach in the delivery of health services and
6 to undertake the appropriate health human resource development for this policy;
7 and
8 (b) To promote preventive dental healthcare in the rural areas as part of the Primary
9 Health Care strategy.
10

11 **SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.*** – As used in this Act, the following terms shall mean:

- 12 (a) *Rural Health Unit* (also known as Main Health Center) shall be composed of a
13 doctor, a nurse and a midwife. Its function is to carry out the public health functions
14 of the Department of Health which includes both preventive and curative health
15 care.
16 (b) *Dental Unit* shall be composed of a public health dentist and a trained Barangay
17 Health Worker as a dental aide.
18

19 **SEC. 4. *Creation of Dental Unit.*** – As part of the Primary Health Care Approach, there is
20 hereby created a dental unit in every rural health unit (RHU) under the supervision of the
21 Department of Health.
22

23 **SEC. 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within ninety (90) days from the approval
24 of this Act, the Department of Health shall promulgate the rules and regulations necessary
25 for the effective implementation of this Act.
26

27 **SEC. 6. *Funding.*** – The amount necessary for the purpose of this Act shall be funded from
28 the current fiscal year’s appropriation for the Department of Health (DOH). Thereafter,

29 such amount as may be necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in
30 the annual General Appropriations Act.

31

32 **SEC. 7. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the
33 Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

34

35 *Approved,*