



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



TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 9656

Introduced by Representative MARLESA “DOC MARLY” HOFER-HASIM

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Cardiovascular diseases remain one of the leading causes of mortality in the Philippines. Atherosclerosis, a condition characterized by the buildup of plaque in the arteries, is a major contributor to heart attacks, strokes, and other serious health complications.

Despite its prevalence, public awareness of atherosclerosis and its risk factors such as elevated cholesterol levels and poor lifestyle habits remains limited. Declaring the third week of February as National Atherosclerosis Awareness Week will provide a dedicated platform for education, advocacy, and community engagement, aligned with international heart health campaigns.

This proposed legislation seeks to institutionalize a nationwide observance that will empower Filipinos with knowledge and preventive strategies to combat lipid disorders and reduce the burden of cardiovascular disease.

MARLESA “DOC MARLY” HOFER-HASIM
Representative, 2nd District of Zamboanga Sibugay



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AN ACT
DECLARING THE THIRD WEEK OF FEBRUARY OF EVERY YEAR AS
“NATIONAL ATHEROSCLEROSIS AWARENESS WEEK”

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

1 **SECTION 1. *Title*** - This Act shall be known as the “*National Atherosclerosis*
2 *Awareness Week*”.

3
4 **SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy*** - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote
5 the prevention, management, and control of lipid disorders and atherosclerosis. In pursuit of
6 this, the State shall endeavor to reduce the incidence of cardiovascular diseases through
7 sustained public education and awareness programs.

8
9 **SECTION 3. *National Atherosclerosis Awareness Week***. - The third week of
10 February of every year is hereby declared as “National Atherosclerosis Awareness Week”
11 to align with global initiatives led by the American Heart Association and the National
12 Institutes of Health in promoting heart health and cholesterol awareness.

1 **SECTION 4. *Public Education and Awareness Program*** – To ensure the meaningful
2 observance of the National Atherosclerosis Awareness Week, a comprehensive public
3 education and awareness campaign shall be implemented. This program shall focus on
4 disseminating information on lipid disorders and atherosclerosis, and their impact on public
5 health and well-being.

6
7 **SECTION 5. *Implementing Agency*** – The Philippine Lipid and Atherosclerosis Society,
8 Inc. (PLAS), in coordination with relevant non-governmental organizations and patient
9 advocacy groups, shall serve as the lead agency in the implementation of this Act.

10
11 **SECTION 6. *Effectivity*** – This Act shall take effect Fifteen (15) days after its approval and
12 publication.

13
14 *Approved,*