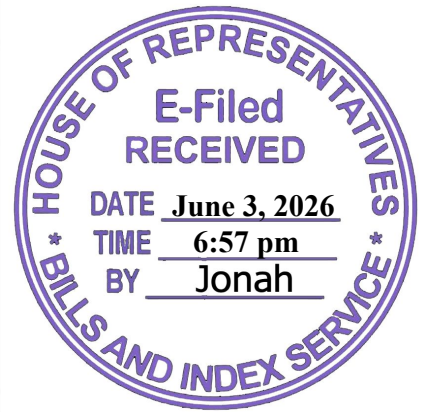


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 9793



**Introduced by Representatives JEFFREY SORIANO, JOCELYN P. TULFO,
and RALPH WENDEL P. TULFO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

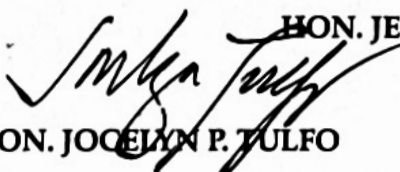
This bill seeks to ensure equitable access to essential medicines and diagnostic equipment in all government hospitals, particularly benefiting underserved and indigent patients.

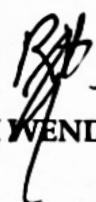
Access to quality healthcare remains uneven across the country, with many public hospitals lacking sufficient medicines and basic diagnostic tools such as X-ray, ultrasound, and electrocardiogram machines. These deficiencies are most pronounced in remote and underserved areas, where patients are often forced to delay or forego treatment due to unavailability of services or prohibitive costs. As a result, preventable conditions worsen, health outcomes decline, and financial burdens on families increase.

To address these gaps, the proposed measure mandates the Department of Health (DOH) to supply adequate medicines and procure necessary diagnostic equipment for government hospitals nationwide. Funding shall be sourced from existing mechanisms, including the Medical Assistance to Indigent and Financially Incapacitated Patients (MAIFIP) Fund, to ensure sustained support for those most in need.

Beyond immediate provision, this bill aims to strengthen the public healthcare system by improving service capacity, reducing disparities in healthcare delivery, and promoting timely and effective medical intervention. It affirms the State's duty to uphold the right to health and to make quality healthcare accessible to all Filipinos, regardless of economic status or geographic location.

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


HON. JOCELYN P. TULFO


HON. RALPH WENDEL P. TULFO

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House Bill No. **9793**

**Introduced by Representatives JEFFREY SORIANO, JOCELYN P. TULFO,
and RALPH WENDEL P. TULFO**

AN ACT
ENSURING THE AVAILABILITY OF MEDICINES AND PROCUREMENT OF
MEDICAL EQUIPMENT IN ALL PUBLIC HOSPITALS THROUGH THE
UTILIZATION OF THE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TO INDIGENT AND
FINANCIALLY INCAPACITATED PATIENTS (MAIFIP) FUND, AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES

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 "*Universal Medical Access and Equipment Act.*"

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to promote and protect the right to health of every Filipino by ensuring universal access to essential medicines and quality healthcare services. In line with this, the State shall mandate the Department of Health (DOH) to provide adequate medicines and procure essential medical equipment for all government hospitals using the Medical Assistance to Indigent and Financially Incapacitated Patients (MAIFIP) Fund.

SEC 3. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act:

a. Essential medicines refer to the list of medicines identified by the DOH as essential for the treatment of prevalent diseases and health conditions in the Philippines, as well as medicines included in the Philippine National Formulary;

b. Essential medical equipment refer to X-ray machines, ultrasound machines, ECG machines, and other diagnostic equipment deemed necessary by the DOH for basic diagnostic services in public hospitals;

c. Public hospitals refer to all hospitals owned and operated by the national government, including, but not limited to, national hospitals, regional hospitals, provincial hospitals, city hospitals, and municipal hospitals; and

d. MAIFIP Fund refers to the Medical Assistance to Indigent and Financially Incapacitated Patients Fund.

SEC 4. *Availability of Essential Medicines.* – The DOH shall ensure the continuous and adequate supply of essential medicines in all public hospitals nationwide. To achieve this, the following shall be implemented:

a. The DOH shall establish a streamlined procurement process for essential medicines, ensuring competitive pricing and timely delivery through bulk purchasing and strategic partnerships with pharmaceutical providers. Preference shall be given to locally manufactured medicines: *Provided, That* they meet international quality and safety standards;

b. All public hospitals shall implement efficient inventory management systems to prevent stockouts and wastage of medicines. The DOH shall provide technical assistance and training to hospital personnel on inventory management best practices;

c. Public hospitals shall maintain proper storage of medicines that adhere to pharmacopeial standards, including the mandatory use of climate-controlled environments to monitor temperature and humidity, ensuring the long-term efficacy and safety of all medical stocks; and

d. The DOH shall develop guidelines for the efficient and equitable dispensing of medicines to patients in public hospitals, prioritizing indigent and financially incapacitated patients.

SEC 5. *Provision of Essential Medical Equipment.* – The DOH shall ensure that all public hospitals are equipped with the following essential medical equipment, including, but not limited to:

a. Radiographic equipment, specifically at least one (1) X-ray machine capable of performing basic radiographic examinations;

b. Ultrasonography tools, specifically at least one (1) ultrasound machine capable of performing basic imaging procedures;

c. Electrocardiogram (ECG) units, specifically at least one ECG machine to facilitate cardiac monitoring and diagnosing; and

d. Other specialized equipment as determined by a DOH-led needs assessment, which shall prioritize procurement based on hospital capacity,

regional health demands, and the needs of the patient population served, especially indigent and financially incapacitated patients.

SEC 6. *Funding.* – The procurement of essential medicines and medical equipment under this Act shall be funded primarily through the MAIFIP Fund, subject to the following provisions:

a. The DOH shall exclusively reserve at least twenty-five percent (25%) of the annual MAIFIP Fund for the procurement of essential medicines and medical equipment as mandated by this Act. This allocation shall be prioritized and protected from other uses.

b. The National Government shall include supplemental funding in the annual General Appropriations Act to augment the MAIFIP allocation and ensure the long-term sustainability of the program.

c. The DOH is authorized to explore other funding sources, including grants and donations, to further support the objectives of this Act.

SEC 7. *MAIFIP Fund Management and Transparency.* – The DOH shall develop clear and transparent guidelines for the utilization of the MAIFIP fund for the purposes of this Act, ensuring accountability and preventing misuse of funds.

Implement a robust monitoring system to track the utilization of MAIFIP funds for the procurement of medicines and equipment and to assess the impact of this Act on access to healthcare for indigent and financially incapacitated patients. Publish regular reports on the utilization of the MAIFIP fund, including details on the procurement of medicines and equipment, the number of patients served, and the overall impact on public health.

SEC 8. *Implementation and Monitoring.* – The DOH shall be the lead implementing agency for this Act. It shall develop implementing rules and regulations within sixty (60) days of the effectivity of this Act. Conduct regular monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of this Act to ensure its effectiveness. Submit an annual report to Congress on the progress of the implementation of this Act, including data on the availability of medicines and equipment in public hospitals, the utilization of funds, the number of indigent and financially incapacitated patients served, and any challenges encountered.

SEC 9. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC 10. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, and rules and regulations, or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC 11. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,