



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. **9945**



Introduced by Representative EDGAR R. ERICE

EXPLANATORY NOTE

PROVIDING MONTHLY MAINTENANCE MEDICATION SUPPORT FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

The measure of a compassionate society is reflected in how it treats its elderly. After spending the greater part of their lives working, raising families, building communities, and contributing to the nation's progress, many Filipino senior citizens now face a difficult reality: the rising cost of healthcare and maintenance medications that are essential to preserving their health and prolonging their lives.

For countless elderly Filipinos, growing old has become increasingly expensive. Many suffer from chronic illnesses such as hypertension, diabetes, heart disease, arthritis, and other age-related conditions that require continuous medication. Yet, amid persistent inflation and rising pharmaceutical costs, a significant number of senior citizens are forced to make heartbreaking choices every month—whether to buy their prescribed medicines or use their limited resources for food, utilities, and other basic necessities. Some reduce their prescribed dosages, skip medications altogether, or delay treatment due to financial constraints, placing their health and lives at serious risk.

While Republic Act No. 9994, otherwise known as the “Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010,” grants valuable discounts and privileges, many senior citizens remain unable to afford the medicines they need on a regular basis. A discount is of little help when one lacks the means to purchase the medication in the first place. As a result, preventable illnesses

worsen, hospitalizations increase, and families are burdened with medical expenses that could have been avoided through consistent access to maintenance medicines.

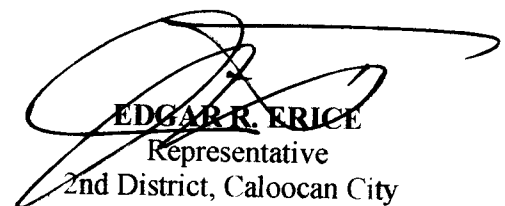
This proposed legislation seeks to address this pressing concern by providing qualified senior citizens with a Monthly Maintenance Medication Support of One Thousand Pesos (Php1,000.00), to be used exclusively for the purchase of prescribed maintenance medicines, vitamins, and supplements. By ensuring that the assistance is dedicated solely to healthcare needs, the measure promotes medication compliance, prevents the progression of chronic illnesses, and helps senior citizens maintain healthier, more dignified, and more independent lives.

Beyond the financial assistance it provides, this bill is a recognition of a debt of gratitude owed by the nation to its elderly citizens. It is a declaration that those who have spent decades caring for their families, serving their communities, and contributing to national development should not be left to worry about whether they can afford the medicines that keep them alive and well. It is a reaffirmation of the State's constitutional duty to protect and promote the health and welfare of its people, especially those who are most vulnerable.

By investing in preventive healthcare for senior citizens, the government can also reduce long-term healthcare expenditures arising from avoidable complications, emergency treatments, and hospital confinements. More importantly, it can provide peace of mind to millions of elderly Filipinos and their families, knowing that the necessities of health and wellness remain within reach.

At a time when many senior citizens struggle daily with the increasing cost of living, this measure offers not merely financial support, but hope, security, and dignity. It ensures that no Filipino who has spent a lifetime contributing to society will be deprived of essential medicines because of poverty or lack of resources.

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


EDGARR ERICE
Representative
2nd District, Caloocan City



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AN ACT
PROVIDING MONTHLY MAINTENANCE MEDICATION SUPPORT FOR
SENIOR CITIZENS

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

1
2 **SEC. 1. Short Title.** This Act shall be known as the “**Monthly Maintenance Medication**
3 **Support Act for Senior Citizens.**”

4
5 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** In consonance with Article XIII, Sec. 11 of the Constitution
6 which provides that the State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health
7 and other social services available to all people at affordable cost, giving priority to thee
8 underprivileged, sick elderly, disabled, women and children, it is hereby declared the policy
9 of the State to protect and promote the health and well-being of elderly citizens for their
10 continues meaningful contribution and participation in society. This Act seeks to provide
11 monthly financial assistance to medication, thereby enhancing their quality of life and health
12 outcomes.

13
14 **SEC. 3. Monthly Maintenance Support.** The government shall provide monthly financial
15 support amounting to Php1,000.00 to all senior citizens, hereinafter referred to as

1 “beneficiaries,” who are qualified and registered as such under Republic Act No. 9994,
2 otherwise known as the “Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010”
3

4 **SEC. 4. Eligibility and Registration.** To qualify for the Monthly Maintenance Medication
5 Support, a senior citizen must meet the following criteria:

6 (a) Be a Filipino citizen and a registered senior citizen as defined in Republic Act No.
7 9994;

8 (b) Submit an application to the Department of Health (DOH) or its designated agency,
9 accompanied by a valid prescription for maintenance medication issued by a licensed
10 medical practitioner within the last six (6) months from the date of application; and

11 (c) Once approved, beneficiaries shall be issued a Monthly Maintenance Medication
12 Support Card.
13

14 **SEC 5. Use of the Monthly Support.** The Monthly Maintenance Medication Support shall
15 be used exclusively to purchase prescribed maintenance medications, including but not
16 limited to medicines for chronic illnesses, vitamins, and supplements, from all public or
17 private pharmaceutical establishments upon presentment of a prescription validly issued
18 within the last six (6) months from the date of purchase. The Monthly Maintenance
19 Medication Support shall not be transferrable to any person other than the person to which
20 the same is provided of the support shall not be convertible to cash.
21

22 **SEC 6. Implementation and Coordination.** The Department of Health (DOH) shall be
23 responsible for the implementation of this Act and shall coordinate with other relevant
24 agencies, including the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), to ensure
25 the efficient distribution of the Monthly Maintenance Medication Support.
26

27 **SEC. 7. Monitoring and Reporting.** The DOH shall establish a monitoring system to track
28 the utilization of the Monthly Maintenance Medication Support and shall submit an annual
29 report to Congress detailing the program’s effectiveness and impact on senior citizen’s health
30 and well-being.
31

32 **SEC. 8. Penalties.** Any person who commits fraud, misrepresentation, or any form of abuse
33 in the application or use of the Monthly Maintenance Medication Support shall be subject to
34 penalties as prescribed by law.
35

1 **SEC.9. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** The DOH, in coordination with the DSWD
2 and other relevant agencies, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulation of effectively
3 implement this Act within ninety (90) days from its effectively.

4
5 **SEC. 10. Separability Clause.** If any part, section, or provision of this Act is held invalid or
6 unconstitutional, other provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

7
8 **SEC. 11. Repealing Clause.** All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulation or parts thereof
9 inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

10
11 **SEC. 12. Effectivity.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the
12 Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

13
14 Approved,