



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 10291

Introduced by Representative Nelson S. Legacion
Third Congressional District, Camarines Sur

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The COVID-19 pandemic, which spanned from 2020 to 2023, inflicted a grave toll on public health, disrupting socio-economic stability and causing widespread loss of life in the Philippines and across the globe. In response to this unprecedented crisis, healthcare practitioners and medical researchers explored various innovative therapeutic options.

Among the most vital interventions was convalescent plasma therapy, a treatment utilizing the antibody-rich plasma of recovered individuals to bolster the immune response of patients who are critically ill or at high risk of developing severe medical complications. Clinical studies indicate that convalescent plasma is a crucial medical tool not only for coronavirus survivors but also for patients battling other serious, emerging, or immediately life-threatening infections. It serves as an indispensable lifeline for individuals who face a high risk of progression to severe clinical illness.

Beyond infectious diseases, blood plasma contains vital proteins, immunoglobulins, and clotting factors essential for treating acute trauma, severe burns, congenital immunodeficiencies, and bleeding disorders. Currently, the Philippines relies heavily on expensive, imported plasma-derived medicinal products (PDMPs). The absence of an advanced, state-backed plasma collection and fractionation network leaves our domestic healthcare system dangerously vulnerable to supply chain disruptions and volatile international markets.

The Philippine healthcare system has long thrived on specialized institutional frameworks, seen clearly in our apex specialty institutions like the Philippine Heart Center (PHC), the National Kidney and Transplant Institute (NKTi), and the Lung Center of the Philippines (LCP). Consistent with the State's duty protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them under Article II, Section 15 of the 1987 Constitution,

this proposed bill serves as a critical pillar of a comprehensive health infrastructure agenda spearheaded by the undersigned proponent.

Accordingly, this bill seeks to institutionalize a proactive, modern system for plasma donation and collection, ensuring an adequate, safe, and accessible supply of therapeutic plasma for immediate medical use. By mandating the establishment of specialized plasma banks within one (1) year from its effectivity, this measure aims to facilitate timely access to life-saving plasma products, support immunocompromised patients, and strengthen the country's strategic resilience against future public health emergencies. It is also designed to operate in total synergy with another primary measure championed by the author, the institutionalization of the Philippine Blood Center (PBC), as well as a proposed Act creating a specialized National Liver Center. By establishing a robust network of advanced Blood Plasma Banks, the country can move toward true self-sufficiency in life-saving plasma derivatives, drastically reduce procurement costs for public hospitals, and maximize the medical utility of voluntary blood donations.

This proposed measure builds upon and represents an improved, expanded version of the legislative initiative originally filed by Representative Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo during the Nineteenth Congress.

In view of the critical role this framework will play in fortifying our national healthcare system and preventing further preventable loss of life, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


NELSON S. LEGACION
Representative, Third District, Camarines Sur



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**AN ACT PROMOTING PLASMA DONATION AND COLLECTION,
ESTABLISHING PLASMA BANKS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR,
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 "*Plasma Donation and Collection Act.*"

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. - The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them. Studies show that the use of antibodies of coronavirus survivors can be used as treatment for patients with serious or immediately life-threatening COVID-19 infections, and people who have been determined by a healthcare provider to be at high risk of progression to severe or life-threatening disease. Towards these ends, the State shall promote the donation and collection of convalescent plasma.

SECTION 3. Definition of Term. – For the purpose of this Act,

a.) Blood Plasma – refers to the raw material consisting of the fluid portion of human blood normally collected through plasmapheresis or by other scientifically or medically acceptable methods, intended as source material for further manufacturing or pharmaceutical or therapeutic use.

SECTION 4. Plasma Donation and Collection. The government, through the Department of Health (DOH), shall promote the donation and collection of convalescent plasma or plasma from COVID-19 recovered patients. *Provided that*, such recovered patients shall qualify the eligibility criteria, as may be determined by DOH, for collection and donation of plasma. *Provided further that*, such collection, storage, and all activities in relation to the procedure be coordinated at the national level through effective organization and integrated blood supply networks.

SECTION 5. *Establishment of Plasma Banks.* - Within one (1) year after the effectivity of this Act, all hospitals, private and public, shall have a facility where plasma can be collected and stored. All hospitals with existing plasma storage facilities and capable of collecting and storing plasma shall be deemed to have complied with the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 6. *Proper Safeguards and Handling.* To guarantee the integrity of the plasma and other blood products, that shall be collected, all plasma banks, as accredited by DOH, shall ensure that all plasma and other blood products collected have been labeled accordingly, tested and found to be negative of blood transmissible diseases, and observed an established chain of custody, according to acceptable standards.

SECTION 7. *Appropriations.* - The amount necessary to initially implement the provisions of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the DOH. Thereafter, such sums, as may be needed, for its continued implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA).

The DOH shall provide technical and financial support to hospitals under the supervision of local government units in the setting-up and maintenance of the plasma banks.

SECTION 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DOH shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the implementation of this Act.

SECTION 9. *Repealing Clause.* - This Act shall repeal and supersede Sections 3(a) and (f), 7, 8, and other pertinent provisions of Republic Act No. 7719 also known as the "National Blood Services Act of 1994", insofar as they may apply to or cover blood plasma and the blood plasma collection centers and facilities authorized under this Act. All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 10. *Separability Clause.* - If any portion or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected thereby shall remain in force and effect.

SECTION 11. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following the completion of its publication either in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,