



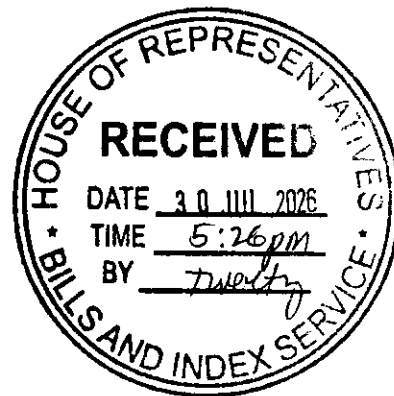
Republic of the Philippines

House of Representatives

Quezon City, Metro Manila

Twentieth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10460



Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE KATRINA REIKO CHUA - TAI**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Zamboanga City Medical Center (ZCMC) stands as the beacon of government healthcare in Western Mindanao, serving not only Zamboanga City but also the BASULTA provinces, which include Basilan, Sulu, and Tawi-Tawi. As the City's leading government medical institution, ZCMC offers specialized medical and surgical care that many provincial and district hospitals cannot provide, making it the lifeline for patients in need of advanced and life-saving treatment.

With Zamboanga City and its neighboring provinces' population growing rapidly, and diseases both old and new on the rise, the need for accessible, quality healthcare has never been greater. Each day, Zamboanga City Medical Center welcomes around 1,200 outpatients, alongside a steady stream of emergency cases, admitted patients, and referrals from all corners of ZAMBASULTA. This surge in patient numbers highlights the community's deepening trust in the hospital, but it also strains its facilities, equipment, and dedicated healthcare workers to their limits.

For countless families, especially those who are indigents and vulnerable, private hospital care remains out of reach. As a result, Zamboanga City Medical Center is not just the preferred choice but often the only hope for quality and specialized treatment. As the sole government tertiary referral hospital in the city, equipped with state-of-the-art facilities and expert specialists, ZCMC regularly operates beyond its authorized bed capacity. Overcrowded emergency rooms and wards, long waits for admission, and the growing demand for specialized care all point to one clear solution, the urgent expansion of the hospital's capacity.

Recognizing these pressing challenges, this proposal seeks to raise the authorized bed capacity of Zamboanga City Medical Center from 800 to 1,000 beds. Alongside

this increase, the plan includes upgrading and modernizing the hospital facilities, acquiring new medical equipment, and creating essential staff positions to ensure the hospital can deliver high-quality healthcare efficiently and effectively as it grows.

This proposal aligns with the current Administration's commitment to fortify the nation's public healthcare system by modernizing government hospitals and fully implementing the Zero Balance Billing Program under Universal Health Care. By expanding Zamboanga City Medical Center, more indigent and financially challenged patients can receive timely, quality, and affordable care without the fear of overwhelming medical bills. Most importantly, it will open doors to specialized medical services for residents in remote and underserved areas across the ZAMBASULTA provinces.

The State is constitutionally bound to safeguard and advance the people's right to health, ensuring that essential health services are within everyone's reach. Expanding Zamboanga City Medical Center is a timely and vital investment in the public health of Zamboanguenos, one that will greatly strengthen the government's ability to provide responsive, fair, and compassionate care to millions across Region IX and the entire Western Mindanao.

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



KATRINA REIKO CHUA-TAI



Republic of the Philippines

House of Representatives

Quezon City, Metro Manila

Twentieth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10460

Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE KATRINA REIKO CHUA-TAI**

AN ACT

INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF THE ZAMBOANGA CITY MEDICAL CENTER IN ZAMBOANGA CITY FROM EIGHT HUNDRED (800) BEDS TO ONE THOUSAND (1,000) BEDS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11087, AS AMENDED, ENTITLED "AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF THE ZAMBOANGA CITY MEDICAL CENTER IN ZAMBOANGA CITY FROM FIVE HUNDRED (500) TO EIGHT HUNDRED (800) BEDS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. The authorized bed capacity of the Zamboanga City Medical Center in Zamboanga City is hereby increased from eight hundred (800) beds to one thousand (1,000) beds.

SEC. 2. The existing hospital facilities and professional health care service of the Zamboanga City Medical Center are hereby upgraded to conform with and be commensurate to the increase in its bed capacity as provided in Section 1 hereof.

1 SEC. 3. The existing workforce of the Zamboanga City Medical Center shall
2 be also correspondingly increased. The Department of Health, shall, in coordination
3 with the Department of Budget and Management and the Civil Service Commission,
4 and after consultation with the Zamboanga City Medical Center, determine the
5 additional plantilla positions to be created pursuant to this Act.

6 SEC. 4. The increase in bed capacity of the Zamboanga City Medical Center
7 from eight hundred (800) beds to one thousand (1,000) beds shall be implemented
8 for a period of not more than two (2) years from the approval of this Act.

9 SEC. 5. The Secretary of Health shall immediately include in the
10 Department's programs the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall
11 be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

12 SEC. 6. This Act Shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the
13 Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

14 Approved,