



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10710



Introduced by Representative Ma. Victoria Co-Pilar

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The need for sustained pharmaceutical support has become even more pressing as the country's elderly population continues to expand. According to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), there were approximately 11.42 million Filipinos aged 60 years and above in 2024, accounting for 10.2% of the country's household population, up from 9.22 million or 8.5% in 2020. This growing segment of the population underscores the urgent need for stronger and more accessible health interventions specifically designed to address the evolving needs of Filipino senior citizens.

Chronic non-communicable diseases remain the leading causes of illness and death among older Filipinos. According to the Department of Health, cardiovascular diseases, diabetes mellitus, chronic respiratory diseases, and hypertension account for a substantial share of morbidity and mortality in the country, with older persons disproportionately affected. These conditions require uninterrupted maintenance medications to prevent complications such as stroke, heart attack, kidney failure, blindness, and disability. However, many senior citizens, especially those from low-income households, are unable to consistently purchase their prescribed medicines because of financial constraints. According to the 2023 National Health Accounts, household out-of-pocket spending continues to account for 44.3% of the country's current health expenditures, indicating that many Filipino families still bear the primary burden of healthcare costs.

This bill seeks to institutionalize a comprehensive government program that provides free maintenance medications, vitamins, and supplements to all qualified senior citizens through barangay health centers, Botika ng Bayan, accredited pharmacies, and direct delivery by barangay health workers for frail, oldest-old, and bedridden beneficiaries. It likewise strengthens existing health financing mechanisms by expanding the coverage of PhilHealth's Guaranteed and Accessible Medications for Outpatient Treatment (GAMOT) package to include medicines that may not be readily available through regular government channels. By integrating medicine provision with primary healthcare services and local government implementation, the measure promotes better treatment adherence, disease prevention, and healthier aging among Filipino senior citizens.

Ensuring that senior citizens receive their prescribed maintenance is a long-term investment in public health, social protection, and human dignity. By reducing preventable complications, avoidable hospital admissions, and catastrophic healthcare expenses among elderly Filipinos, the proposed measure advances the State's constitutional duty to protect the health of its people and uphold the welfare of one of the nation's most vulnerable sectors.

The immediate passage of this bill is, therefore, earnestly sought.



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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR FREE MAINTENANCE MEDICATION, VITAMINS, AND
SUPPLEMENTS FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

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 "Lingap Gamot at Resistensya Pack Para sa Nakatatandang Pinoy Act."

Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy. – The State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development, which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health, and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost, giving priority to the needs of the underprivileged, sick, elderly, persons with disabilities, women, and children.

It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote and protect the health and well-being of senior citizens by providing free medical care and support to ensure their continued and meaningful participation and contribution in society.

Sec. 3. Free Maintenance Medications, Vitamins, and Supplements. – The government shall provide free maintenance medications, vitamins, and supplements to all senior citizens, as defined under Republic Act No. 9994, otherwise known as the Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010.

Sec. 4. Eligibility and Registration. – To qualify for the free monthly maintenance medications, vitamins, and supplements, a senior citizen must:

- a) be a registered senior citizen with the Office of Senior Citizens Affairs (OSCA);
- b) be enlisted in the target client list of the barangay health center where they reside;
- c) be assigned to a primary healthcare provider; and
- d) have a valid prescription issued within the last three (3) months.

Sec. 5. Access to Maintenance Medications, Vitamins, and Supplements. – The free maintenance medications, vitamins, and supplements shall be accessed through barangay health centers, Botika ng Bayan, and/or deputized and accredited pharmacies: *Provided*, That access to and delivery of these items for the oldest-old, frail, and bedridden senior citizens shall be done directly by designated barangay health workers.

Sec. 6. PhilHealth GAMOT for Senior Citizens. – Maintenance medications, vitamins, and supplements needed by senior citizens but not readily available shall be covered under, and in addition to, PhilHealth's current Guaranteed and Accessible Medications for Outpatient Treatment (GAMOT) package.

1 **Sec. 7. Implementation and Coordination.** – The Department of Health (DOH) shall be
2 responsible for the implementation of this Act. It shall coordinate with relevant agencies, including
3 but not limited to the National Commission of Senior Citizens (NCSC), Department of Social
4 Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), and
5 recognized senior citizens associations, to ensure the efficient allocation and distribution of the free
6 maintenance medications, vitamins, and supplements.

7 **Sec. 8. Monitoring and Reporting.** – The DOH shall establish a monitoring system to track the
8 allocation, distribution, and utilization of the free maintenance medications, vitamins, and
9 supplements. An annual report shall be submitted to Congress detailing the program's effectiveness
10 and its impact on the health and well-being of senior citizens.

11 **Sec. 9. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – The DOH, in coordination with concerned
12 agencies including PhilHealth, NCSC, DSWD, DILG, and recognized senior citizens associations
13 shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement this Act effectively within ninety
14 (90) days from its effectivity.

15 **Sec. 10. Separability Clause.** – If any part, section, or provision of this Act is held invalid or
16 unconstitutional, the remaining provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

17 **Sec. 11. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations, or parts thereof,
18 inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

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

21 **Approved,**