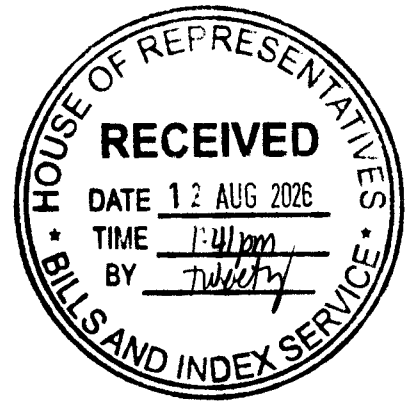


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **10733**



Introduced by

REP. FRANCISCO PAOLO P. ORTEGA V

EXPLANATORY NOTE

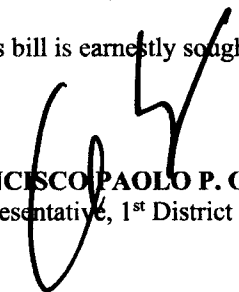
Section 15, Article II of the 1987 Constitution declares that the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them. Republic Act. No. 11223, otherwise known as the Universal Health Care Act, likewise mandates the integration of local health systems and equitable access to quality health services.

The existing government hospitals serving La Union and other provinces in the region have continuously experienced increasing patient admissions and outpatient consultations. Despite the presence of these government hospitals, many patients continue to travel to Metro Manila, Baguio City, and other highly urbanized centers for diagnostics, treatment and other specialized services. This results in delayed treatment, overcrowding in tertiary hospitals, increased transportation and travelling costs, and unnecessary hardship for patients and their families.

La Union occupies a strategic location at the center of the Ilocos Region and is readily accessible through major transportation corridors. Establishing the La Union Medical Hub in the Province of La Union will strengthen the provincial and regional healthcare network by providing quality basic and advanced medical services, creation of specialized centers, integrating province and region-wide referral systems, expanding telemedicine, and promoting medical education, research, and health workforce development. It is imperative to create and implement an integrated and comprehensive approach to medical development that shall endeavor to make essential health and other specialized medical services such as, but not limited to, Geriatrics, Drug Rehabilitation and Mental Health, available for all.

The proposed La Union Medical Hub shall serve as the premier government referral center for the Province and in Region I while complementing-not replacing- the functions of existing government hospitals. It shall likewise support the implementation of the Universal Health Care Act by ensuring that specialized healthcare is accessible closer to the people.

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


FRANCISCO PAOLO P. ORTEGA V
Representative, 1st District of La Union

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10733

Introduced by

REP. FRANCISCO PAOLO P. ORTEGA V

AN ACT

ESTABLISHING THE LA UNION MEDICAL HUB IN THE PROVINCE OF LA UNION, PROVIDING FOR ITS POWERS, FUNCTIONS, ORGANIZATION, AND FUNDING, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE - This Act shall be known as the “*La Union Medical Hub Act*”

SECTION 2. DECLARATION OF POLICY - It is the policy of the State to protect and promote the right to health of every Filipino by providing accessible, affordable, quality, and responsive healthcare services for all.

Towards this end, the State shall establish an integrated Medical Hub in the Province of La Union to serve as a government referral center for the Province and in Region I that will provide comprehensive and advanced medical services, specialty care, medical education, research, disaster response, and digital health services to all citizens of the province and the entire Region I.

SECTION 3. CREATION OF THE LA UNION MEDICAL HUB- There is hereby established the La Union Medical Hub (LUMH) in the Province of La Union under the supervision of the Department of Health (DOH).

The La Union Medical Hub (LUMH) may be established through:

- (1) The construction of a new medical complex, subject to the availability of funds;
- (2) The expansion or extension of an existing DOH Hospital in La Union; or,
- (3) The integration of specialized medical health facilities.

The Department of Health, in partnership with the Provincial Government of La Union, shall establish the integrated medical health complex by determining the most appropriate site

based on accessibility, infrastructure requirement, population to be served, disaster resilience, and long-term regional health requirements.

SECTION 4. COVERAGE - The La Union Medical Hub shall primarily serve the Province of La Union and may also receive referrals from neighboring Provinces of Pangasinan, Ilocos Sur, and Ilocos Norte and other regions, whenever necessary.

SECTION 5. OBJECTIVES- The La Union Medical Hub shall:

- (1) Serve as an Apex Referral Center for the Province and in Region I;
- (2) Strengthen healthcare service delivery;
- (3) Establish and expand access to specialized healthcare services;
- (4) Reduce patient referrals outside the region;
- (5) Promote integrated physical and mental healthcare through multidisciplinary and patient-centered approach;
- (6) Promote research and innovation in healthcare;
- (7) Empower healthcare professionals through health workforce development, medical education, and clinical training;
- (8) Support implementation of the Universal Health Care Act.

SECTION 6. SERVICES- The La Union Medical Hub shall provide, among others: Emergency Medicine; Trauma and Critical Care; Cardiology and Cardiovascular Services; Neurology; Orthopedics; Internal Medicine; Pediatrics; Obstetrics and Gynecology; Neonatal Intensive Care; Oncology; Hematology; Nephrology; Pulmonology; Infectious Disease Services; General and Specialized Surgery; Geriatric Care; Rehabilitation Medicines; Mental Health Services; Dental Services; Palliative and Hospice Care; Telemedicine, and other services as may be determined by the Department of Health.

SECTION 7. SPECIALIZED CENTERS - The La Union Medical Hub shall establish at least a Level II- Hospital together with specialized centers or facilities, including, but not limited to:

- (a) Mental Health Institute;
- (b) Rehabilitation Medicine Center;
- (c) Geriatric Care Center;
- (d) Neuroscience Institute (Brain and Spine Center);
- (e) Heart Care Center;
- (f) Advanced Trauma Care Center;
- (g) Women and Children's Center;
- (h) Kidney Institute and Dialysis Center;
- (i) Public Health Emergency Operations Center; and,
- (j) Regional Telemedicine and Digital Health Center; and,
- (k) Other specialty services as may be determined by the Department of Health.

SECTION 8. MEDICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH- The La Union Medical Hub shall serve as training hospital for physicians, nurses and allied health professionals, interns, residents and fellows. The said hub may enter into agreements with state university and colleges, local university, medical schools, and educational institutions for residency training, fellowship programs, medical research, and continuing professional development.

SECTION 9. PERSONNEL- The Department of Health shall create the necessary plantilla positions, including physicians, specialists, subspecialists, nurses, dentists, pharmacists, therapists, psychologists, medical technologists, radiologic technologists, administrative personnel, and other allied healthcare professionals.

SECTION 10. INTEGRATION WITH THE PROVINCIAL AND REGIONAL HEALTH SYSTEM- The La Union Medical Hub shall align with the Universal Health Care Act and shall therefore coordinate with Provincial Hospitals, District Hospitals, Municipal Health Offices, Rural Health Units, Barangay Health Centers and Stations, Government Specialty Hospitals; and, Accredited Private Hospitals to ensure and efficiency and responsive referral system within the Province and Region I.

SECTION 11. FUNDING- The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of the Department of Health. Every year thereafter, the funding requirements shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA).

The Provincial Government of La Union may provide counterpart funding, subject to existing budgeting, accounting, and auditing laws. The said Hub may also receive grants, donations, endowments, and technical assistance from local and international development partners in accordance with applicable laws.

SECTION 12. IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS- Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Health, in consultation with the Department of Budget and Management, the Provincial Government of La Union, and other concerned departments and agencies, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for its effective implementation.

SECTION 13. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE- If, for any reason, any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 14. REPEALING CLAUSE- All laws, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 15. EFFECTIVITY- This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.