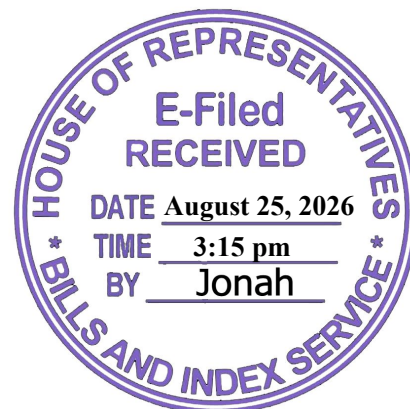


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. **10950**



Introduced by Representative Marcelino "Marcy" R. Teodoro

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to provide medical and dental services to indigent children from families who lack the means to pay for their treatment.

As the saying goes, the children are our future. The 1987 Constitution affords them every form of protection, directing the State to adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development, endeavoring to make essential goods, health, and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost, with priority given to the underprivileged sick, elderly, disabled, and children.

Children remain more susceptible to illness given their developing immune systems, yet many families — particularly those hit hardest by rising costs since the pandemic — cannot afford to bring them to a doctor or dentist. In the first semester of 2021, the Philippine Statistics Authority reported that the poverty rate in the country had increased by 2.6 percentage points, from 21.1% to 23.7%.

This bill seeks to address and provide a real difference in how free and timely care would make a difference in a child's life and in a family's peace of mind. I now file this measure, first introduced in the 19th Congress, to extend that same commitment nationwide.

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

MARCELINO R. TEODORO
Representative
First District, Marikina City

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TWENTIETH CONGRESS
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House Bill No. **10950**

Introduced by Representative Marcelino "Marcy" R. Teodoro

AN ACT
PROVIDING FREE MEDICAL AND DENTAL SERVICES TO INDIGENT
CHILDREN, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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 "Free Medical and Dental Services to Indigent Children Act."

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. It is the policy of the State to 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. There shall be priority for the needs of children, and the State shall endeavor to provide free medical care to paupers. Further, the State recognizes the right of children to proper care and nutrition.

SEC. 3. Free Medical and Dental Services. Indigent children who are fifteen (15) years old and below shall have access to free medical and dental services:

Provided, That the family does not have visible means to cover their medical and dental treatments.

SEC. 4. Creation of Indigent Children Section in Medical Institutions. Every hospital, medical center, and other medical institution must establish an Indigent Children Section for the accommodation of the free medical and dental services to indigent children.

SEC. 5. Implementing Agencies. The Department of Health (DOH) and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) shall lead in the implementation of this Act.

SEC. 6. Appropriations. The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be sourced from the budgets of the DOH and DSWD under their current General Appropriations Act (GAA). Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in their annual GAA.

SEC. 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations. DOH and DSWD, in consultation with other government agencies, shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations of this Act within sixty (60) days from its effectivity.

SEC. 8. Repealing Clause. All provisions of existing laws, presidential decrees or issuances, executive orders, letters of instruction, administrative orders, rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SEC. 9. Separability Clause. If any portion of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other provisions not affected thereby.

SEC. 10. Effectivity. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,