

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 10993



INTRODUCED BY REP. PATRICK MICHAEL “PM” D. VARGAS

AN ACT
CREATING A DENTAL UNIT IN EVERY RURAL HEALTH UNIT UNDER
THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AS PART OF THE PRIMARY APPROACH
IN THE DELIVERY OF HEALTH SERVICES AND
PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution mandates that the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them (Article II, Section 15) and to undertake appropriate health, manpower development and research responsive to the country’s health needs and problems. (Article XIII, Section 12).

In a report by the World Health Organization, dental care is among one of the most neglected health aspects of an individual that has affected one’s overall health, well-being, and quality life. The Department of Health’s National Monitoring and Evaluation Dental Survey states that about 83 million Filipinos suffer from tooth decay and that seven out of ten Filipinos have never sought the services of a dentist.

With only less than 1% of Filipinos seeking treatment for dental care¹, oral disease remains to be a serious public health problem in the country affecting the overall work performance, nutrition, social interactions, and self-esteem of the people.

To address the gaps and to improve the oral care and hygiene of the Filipinos, this bill seeks to create a dental unit each of the rural health units (RHUS) listed under the Department of Health.

¹ National Demographic and Health Survey 2017

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



REP. PATRICK MICHAEL "PM" D. VARGAS

Fifth District, Quezon City

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 10993

INTRODUCED BY REP. PATRICK MICHAEL “PM” D. VARGAS

AN ACT
CREATING A DENTAL UNIT IN EVERY RURAL HEALTH UNIT UNDER
THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AS PART OF THE PRIMARY APPROACH
IN THE DELIVERY OF HEALTH SERVICES AND
PROVIDING 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 “*Local Dental Health Unit Act.*”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to pursue the Primary Health Care Approach in the delivery of health services and to undertake human resource development for this policy and to promote preventive dental healthcare in the rural areas as part of the Primary Health Care strategy.

SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* –

- a) “Rural Health Unit” - also known as Main Health Center. It is composed of a doctor, a nurse, and a midwife. Its function to carry out the public health functions of the Department of Health which includes both preventive and curative health care.
- b) “Dental Unit” - composed of a public health dentist and a trained Barangay Health Worker as a dental aide.

SECTION 4. *Creation of a Dental Unit in every Rural Health Unit.* – As part of the Primary Health Care Approach, there is hereby created a dental unit in every rural health unit under the supervision of the Department of Health.

SECTION 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations* – The Department of Health, in coordination with local government units, shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act within six (6) months of the effectivity hereof.

SECTION 6. *Funding.* – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be funded from the current fiscal year's appropriation for the Department of Health. Thereafter, such amount as may be necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 7. *Separability Clause.* – If any part or provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, other provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 8. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 9. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,