

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

**TWENTIETH CONGRESS**  
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 11469



---

Introduced by: **REPRESENTATIVE ERIC L. OLIVAREZ**

---

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Corpulence or obesity has become significant public health concern in the Philippines. The 2023 National Nutrition Survey of the Department of Science and Technology–Food and Nutrition Research Institute (DOST-FNRI) reported that 39.8% of Filipino adults aged 20 to 59 were classified as Obese I or II under the Asia-Pacific BMI classification. The survey also provides national data on anthropometry, blood pressure, blood glucose, lipid profiles, dietary intake, physical activity, and other factors relevant to nutrition and health.

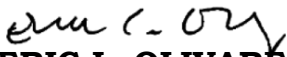
Despite the availability of national nutrition and health data, there remains a need for sustained and focused research on the prevention and management of overweight and obesity. Evidence on risk factors, effective interventions, treatment outcomes, costs, and the health and socioeconomic consequences associated with obesity can contribute to the development of effective and evidence-based public health policies and programs.

This measure seeks to mandate the Department of Health to establish an Obesity Prevention Research Center that will conduct, support, coordinate, and promote research on overweight and obesity. The Center shall study their prevalence and determinants, evaluate preventive treatment interventions, assess their health and economic consequences, and generate evidence to guide the formulation and improvement of government policies and programs.

The proposed Center shall also coordinate with existing government agencies, research institutions, academic institutions, local government units, and other stakeholders to maximize existing data and research resources and avoid unnecessary duplication of efforts. The collection and use of health information shall be undertaken in accordance with the Data Privacy Act of 2012 and applicable ethical standards for health research.

Through a dedicated research mechanism, this measure seeks to strengthen the country's capacity to generate reliable evidence, evaluate interventions, and support informed strategies for the prevention and control of overweight and obesity.

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

  
**ERIC L. OLIVAREZ**

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

**TWENTIETH CONGRESS**  
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 11469

---

Introduced by: **REPRESENTATIVE ERIC L. OLIVAREZ**

---

**“AN ACT  
MANDATING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO  
ESTABLISH A RESEARCH CENTER ON OBESITY  
PREVENTION”**

*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 “*Obesity Prevention Act.*”

**SECTION 2. Overweight and Obesity Defined.** - As used in this Act, unless the context otherwise requires, the terms “overweight” and “obesity” refer to abnormal or excessive accumulation of body fat that may impair health. A commonly used measure of overweight and obesity is the body mass index (BMI), which is a person’s weight in kilograms divided by the square of the individual’s height in meters. For children and adolescents, BMI-for-age and other age-appropriate standards shall be used in accordance with standards adopted by the Department of Health (DOH).

Overweight and obesity may be associated with various health conditions, including type 2 diabetes, impaired glucose tolerance, hyperinsulinemia, dyslipidemia, hypertension, cardiovascular disease, cerebrovascular disease, osteoarthritis of the hips or knees, sleep apnea, gastroesophageal reflux disease, and gallbladder disease.

**SECTION 3. Establishment of Research Center by the Department of Health.** – The DOH shall establish, within its existing organizational structure, an “*Obesity Prevention Research Center,*” which shall serve as the Department's dedicated research and evidence-generation center for the prevention and control of overweight and obesity. The Center shall conduct, support, coordinate, and promote research on the epidemiology, prevention, management, and control of overweight and obesity.

The Center may collect and analyze relevant individual-level or aggregate health and treatment data, only to the extent necessary for specified and legitimate research purposes, subject to Republic Act No. 10173, otherwise known as the “Data Privacy Act of 2012,” applicable ethical standards for health research, and other relevant laws, rules, and regulations. Whenever practicable,

research data shall be de-identified or anonymized. The Center shall implement appropriate organizational, physical, and technical measures to protect personal and health information processed pursuant to this Act.

The research activities of the Center shall include the following:

- a. The epidemiology, prevalence, risk factors, screening and diagnosis, complications, prevention, management, and control of overweight and obesity in Filipino adults, adolescents, and children;
- b. The effectiveness of existing methods for treating or preventing overweight and obesity;
- c. The effectiveness, safety, accessibility, affordability, and cost-effectiveness of other methods and interventions for treating or preventing overweight and obesity;
- d. The fiscal, social, and economic impact of treating or preventing overweight and obesity;
- e. The adherence to, acceptability of, and factors affecting participation in various methods of treating or preventing overweight and obesity; and
- f. The health outcomes and complications associated with the treatment or prevention of overweight and obesity, including diabetes and other non-communicable diseases.

The Center shall coordinate with relevant government agencies, academic and research institutions, local government units, health facilities, professional organizations, and other stakeholders in the conduct, dissemination, and utilization of research under this Act, and shall endeavor to maximize existing data and research resources and avoid unnecessary duplication of research activities.

**SECTION 4. Funding.** – The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act. The DOH may also receive gifts, grants, donations, endowments, and other contributions from individuals, private organizations, foundations, or any governmental unit, subject to existing laws, accounting and auditing rules, and applicable safeguards on conflict of interest and research independence; except that no gift, grant, donation, or contribution may be accepted by the DOH if it is subject to conditions that are inconsistent with this Act or any other law. The DOH shall ensure that such gifts, grants, donations, endowments, and other contributions are used exclusively for the purposes of this Act.

The DOH shall submit to Congress, not later than June 1 of every year, a report on the activities, research findings, policy recommendations, and the utilization of funds for the Research Center during the preceding calendar year.

**SECTION 5. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - The DOH shall be primarily responsible for implementing the provisions of this Act. The DOH, in consultation with relevant government agencies, academic and research institutions, health professionals, and other stakeholders, shall promulgate the necessary implementing rules and regulations within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act.

**SECTION 6. Separability Clause.** - If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

**SECTION 7. Repealing Clause.** - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation, or part thereof, contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

**SECTION 8. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette and/or in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

*Approved,*