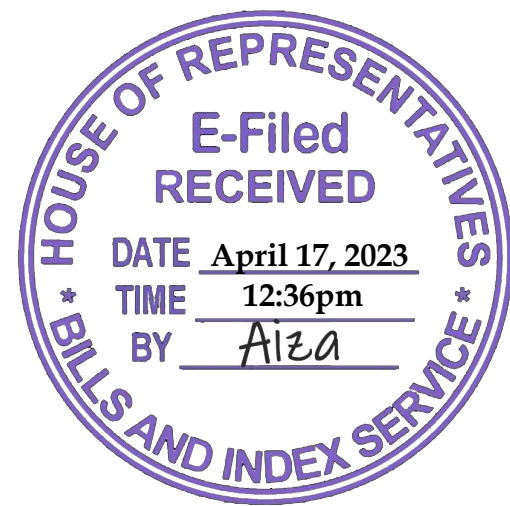


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
1st Regular Session

House Bill No. 7866



**Introduced by Representatives PAOLO Z. DUTERTE, ERIC G. YAP,
and EDVIC G. YAP**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Constitution highlights the need for an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development that will make health services available to the people at an affordable cost.

Despite such Constitutional guarantee, medical and dental check-ups remain unreachable to the vulnerable, especially to the poorest of the poor. Regular health check-ups play a vital role to the children's development because these check-ups help detect and address health concerns and ensure that a child's growth and development are on track.

As a response, this bill seeks to mandate the hospitals, medical centers, clinics and other health institutions that provide frontline medical services in the country to provide free medical and dental treatment to the indigent children, to be headed by the Department of Health, in coordination with the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

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


PAOLO Z. DUTERTE


ERIC G. YAP


EDVIC G. YAP

Republic of the Philippines
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NINETEENTH CONGRESS
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House Bill No. 7866

**Introduced by Representatives ERIC G. YAP, PAOLO Z. DUTERTE, and
EDVIC G. YAP**

**AN ACT
TO REQUIRE THE GIVING OF FREE MEDICAL AND DENTAL SERVICE TO
INDIGENT CHILDREN, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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 "Indigent Children Free Medical and Dental Service Act".

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - Children are the future of Philippine society. Upon this premise, it is hereby declared the policy of the state to provide all the possible assistance it could provide to children especially those who are unfortunate to have no means of support or no one to support them.

SEC. 3. *Indigent Children; Definition.* - Indigent children are those below eighteen (18) years old of age who has no visible means of support or whose parents or guardians have no means of providing for their immediate medical and dental needs.

SEC. 4. *Free Medical Service.* - All hospitals, medical centers, clinics and other health institutions that provide frontline medical services throughout the Philippines are hereby mandated under this Act to provide free medical treatment to indigent children.

SEC. 5. *Free Dental Service.* - All dental clinics, medical centers and other health institutions that provide frontline dental healthcare throughout the country are mandated under this Act to provide free dental healthcare to indigent children.

SEC. 6. *DSWD and DOH Function.* - The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) in coordination with the Department of Health (DOH) shall be the lead agencies in the implementation of this Act. The DSWD shall determine if the child is indeed an indigent while the DOH shall coordinate with the implementation of the free medical and dental services to indigent children.

SEC. 7. Appropriations. - The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into law and thereafter.

SEC. 8. Separability Clause. - If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remainder of this Act or any provisions not affected thereby shall remain in force and effect.

SEC. 9. Repealing Clause. - Any law, presidential decrees or issuance, executive orders, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule, or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

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

Approved,