

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
1st Regular Session

House Bill No. 7687



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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

According to the World Health Organization, cancer is the leading cause of death worldwide. In the Philippines alone, cancer is the third leading cause of death accounting for 189 of every 100,000 Filipinos, with 4 Filipinos dying of the said disease every hour or 96 cancer patients every day, as per the study conducted by the University of the Philippines' Institute of Human Genetics.

In 2019, Republic Act No. 11215 or *The National Integrated Cancer Control Act* was enacted to establish a framework on the cancer control initiatives of the government. Under the said legislation, a cancer assistance fund is allocated to provide financial help to cancer patients for his/her screening, diagnosis, specialized treatment and/or rehabilitation, palliative and supportive care to survivorship, and cancer medicines. Despite such enactment, at present, a lot has still been burdened by the financial demand of this cancer treatment, especially the indigent and underprivileged patients.

Hence, in order to strengthen the said cancer assistance fund, this bill seeks to establish a Ten Billion Cancer Fund that can be availed by indigent and underprivileged cancer patients. The Cancer Treatment Program, which the fund will be used, will be established and administered by the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (Philhealth) through its accredited government hospitals in each particular congressional district, to be known as the health district.

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
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
1st Regular Session

House Bill No. 7687

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

**AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A CANCER MEDICINE AND TREATMENT ASSISTANCE
FUND FOR INDIGENT AND UNDERPRIVILEGED FILIPINOS**

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 "Cancer Medicine and Treatment Fund for Filipinos".

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is hereby a policy of the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people and to adopt and implement a system of effecting the delivery of free medicine and free treatment to indigent and underprivileged cancer patients.

SEC. 3. *Establishment of a Php 10 Billion Cancer Fund and Free Medicine Assistance Program.* - There is hereby created a Ten Billion Cancer Fund that can be availed by indigent and underprivileged cancer patients. For the purpose, a Cancer Treatment Program, hereinafter referred to as the "Program", is established and to be administered by the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (Philhealth) through its accredited government hospitals in each particular congressional district, to be known as the health district.

The program shall be limited to indigent and underprivileged cancer patient beneficiaries to be identified by the Philhealth in close coordination with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the Department of Health (DOH) and the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG).

The Philhealth, jointly with the DSWD, DOH and DILG and the relevant private groups including the association of hospitals and medical institutions and groups of patients, shall prescribe such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the provision of this Act within six (6) months from the effectivity hereof.

SEC. 4. *Appropriations.* - There is hereby appropriated the sum of Ten Billion Pesos (P10,000,000,000.00) for the implementation of the Program. The National

Government shall subsequently include in the budget of the Department of Health in the General Appropriations Act such amount as may be necessary to carry out the objectives of this Act.

SEC. 5. *Repealing clause.* - All provisions of laws, orders, decrees, including rules and regulations inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed and/or modified accordingly.

SEC. 6. *Effectivity.* - This shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,