

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
House of Representatives
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
1st Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1578

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	
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REGISTRATION UNIT BILLS AND INDEX SERVICE	

Introduced by Congressman Alfredo D. Vargas III

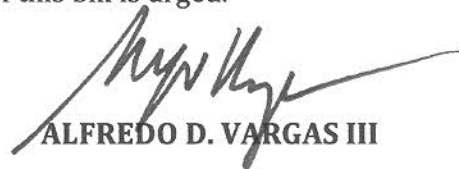
EXPLANATORY NOTE

Breast cancer, on one hand, is the most common type of cancer in the country and is the primary cause of death among Filipino women¹. With one out of every 13 Filipinas expected to develop breast cancer in her lifetime, the Philippines ranks first in breast cancer incidences in Asia.² On the other hand, cervical cancer is the second leading cause of death among Filipino women; approximately 12 Filipinas are diagnosed with it die daily.³

Considering these statistics, it is disturbing and ironic that women have better chances of prevention and remission from these two particular cancers. Thus, this bill emphasizes the importance of early screening and detection in preventing the physical, emotional and economic consequences of being afflicted by these types of cancer.

The proposed Breast and Cervical Cancer Protection Act directs the inclusion of periodic diagnostic services for breast and cervical cancer in the benefit package of the National Health Insurance Corporation. Through this initiative, not only do we give women with cancer a better chance of remission and survival but we are also sparing their families from the physical and emotional stress and financial burden that cancer brings to the family.

In line of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is urged.


ALFREDO D. VARGAS III

¹ Philip C. Tubeza. *Breast cancer is the most prevalent in PH*. Philippine Daily Inquirer. Available at: <http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/291078/breast-cancer-is-the-most-prevalent-in-ph> [21 October 2015]

² Inquirer.net. *PH highest breast cancer incidence rate in Asia, health experts say*. Available at: <http://lifestyle.inquirer.net/128663/ph-highest-breast-cancer-incidence-rate-in-asia-health-experts-say> [21 October 2015]

³ The Manila Times. *DOH opens 65 hospitals for cervical cancer screening*. Available at: <http://www.manilatimes.net/doh-opens-65-hospitals-for-cervical-cancer-screening/182024/> [21 October 2015]

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AN ACT
REQUIRING THE PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION TO PROVIDE
COVERAGE FOR THE DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES FOR BREAST AND CERVICAL CANCER,
PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Breast and Cervical Cancer Protection Act.”

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared as the policy of the State to adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavour to make essential goods, health and other social services available to everyone at an affordable cost. Priority for the needs of the underprivileged sick, elderly, disabled, women and children, shall be recognized.

SEC. 3. *Breast and Cervical Cancer Diagnostic Coverage.* – The National Health Insurance Corporation (hereinafter referred to as PhilHealth) is hereby directed to include mandatory periodic diagnostic services for breast cancer and cervical cancer in its benefits package. The expenses for the mandatory diagnostic services shall be covered by PhilHealth.

The diagnostic services shall include but are not limited to Clinical Breast Cancer (CBE) and Mammogram Examination for breast cancer, and Pap Smear Testing for cervical cancer whichever is applicable as determined by the physician.

SEC. 4. *Periodic Exam.* – The mandatory diagnostic examination shall be done once a year, or as often as may be necessary as determined by the Department of Health (DOH).

SEC. 5. *Funding.* – The amount necessary for the effective implementation of this Act shall be based on the evaluated and adjusted cost-sharing schedule and cost containment

features of the PhilHealth, as determined by the same on the basis of applicable actuarial studies.

SEC. 6. *Implementing Rules.* - The Department of Health and PhilHealth shall promulgate the rules and regulations necessary for the effective enforcement of the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 7. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision or part thereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SEC. 8. *Repealing Clause.* - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to, or inconsistent with, the provisions of this Act, is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

SEC. 9. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,