

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 4869**



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Introduced by **CONGRESSMAN ALFRED VARGAS**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Breast cancer is the most common type of cancer in the country and is the primary cause of death among Filipino women<sup>1</sup>. 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.<sup>2</sup>

It is important to note, however, that breast cancer is preventable and curable. Through early screening and detection, coupled with proper treatment, the physical, emotional, and economic consequences of being afflicted by breast cancer can be prevented. Thus, it is important for the State to exert all efforts to increase awareness and assist in preventing, diagnosing, and treating breast cancer and other breast-related ailments in the country.

This bill aims to establish a Breast Care Center in every region of the Philippines. The Center will lead the fight against breast cancer by specializing in the diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up of conditions affecting the breast. The Center is also directed to conduct breast cancer awareness campaigns, information drive, and public education programs within its region of assignment.

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

  
**ALFRED VARGAS**

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<sup>1</sup> 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]

<sup>2</sup> 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]

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**AN ACT**

**PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BREAST CARE CENTERS IN EVERY REGION  
NATIONWIDE, APPROPRIATING 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. *Establishment of Breast Care Centers.*** – A breast care center, known in this Act as “Center”, shall be established in every region of this country to spearhead the fight against breast cancer and to specialize in the diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up of conditions affecting the breast. It shall be a new department in existing regional hospitals of the National Government. Should there be no regional hospital in the region, the Center shall be attached to any district hospital in the region, which is most accessible to the highest number of constituents.

**Sec. 2. *Equipment and Personnel.*** – The Centers shall be provided with such equipment, tools, implements, devices, apparatus and personnel as may be necessary for them to carry out multiple programs such as Breast Protection, Breast Surveillance, Breast Imaging, Breast Diagnostics and Surgery, Breast Cancer Chemotherapy and Breast Cancer Awareness and Protection.

**Sec. 3. *Function.*** – The Centers shall, in coordination with local government units, local health offices, the Philippine Information Agency and other government agencies, shall spearhead a sustained and extensive information and awareness campaign within their respective region to raise the level of awareness of the region’s constituents especially the women sector on the ills, causes and symptoms of the disease for its early detection and prevention.

The centers shall coordinate with regional and local education officials to ensure that female high school students in both public and private schools are taught the pertinent information about the disease and are trained to habitually self-examine themselves as a part of the regular secondary curriculum.

Sec. 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Secretary of the Department of Health shall issue guidelines, orders, or rules and regulations as may be necessary for the establishment of a Center in every regional hospital of the National Government or in a district hospital to be designated by the Secretary of Health for being the most accessible to the highest number of constituents in a region where there is no existing regional hospital; for the acquisition of the necessary equipment, tools, implements, devices and apparatus for the hiring of personnel, for the fixing of reasonable fees for the services of the Centers and to carry out the provisions and purposes of this Act.

Sec. 5. *Operationalization and Appropriations.* – To fully implement the provisions of the Act, the Secretary of Health shall immediately include in the Department's program the operationalization of the Centers, the funding for which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

Sec. 6. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its complete publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

*Approved,*