

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Philippines

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5998



INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE ALFRED VARGAS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS) is described as an energy deficit disorder characterized by fatigue and prolonged tiredness. It may last for more than six months and sometimes begins with flu-like symptoms. CFS cannot be relieved by simply resting. It can cause muscle pain and nausea and may interfere with work-related, educational, social, and personal activities and may eventually lead to depression. The cause of CFS is unknown and is difficult to diagnose since fatigue may be a symptom of a range of other conditions. It can, however, be managed through minimizing stress, maintaining an exercise routine, getting sufficient sleep, and observing a healthy diet.

While it can be observed that more Filipinos are afflicted by the disease, our country still lacks awareness and knowledge on CFS. More often than not, a person with CFS is often overlooked and perceived as lazy and attention-seeking. This social stigma affects the patient psychologically and may cause prolonged recovery from the disease.

This bill directs the Department of Health and the Philippine Information Agency to carry out a national campaign to increase public awareness and knowledge of CFS.

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


ALFRED VARGAS

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AN ACT
PROMOTING AWARENESS ON CHRONIC FATIGUE SYNDROME

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 "*Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Awareness Act*".

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. - Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS) is widely misunderstood such that patients are viewed as malingering, wanting attention or feigning CFS-like syndrome. The lack of recognition of the disease and support for CFS patients affect them psychologically thereby prolonging their recovery from the disease. It is in accord with the policy of the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them that awareness of CFS be raised to dispel the social stigma associated with the disease so that the patients may attain early recovery and restoration to a productive and fulfilling life.

SECTION 3. Definition of Terms. - For purposes of this Act, the term:

1. "DOH" refers to the Department of Health;
2. "Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS)" refers to CFS is an energy deficit disorder, the impact primarily is on the immune system, the brain, the muscles and endocrine system; and
3. "PIA" refers to the Philippine Information Agency;

SECTION 4. National Public Awareness Campaign. - The Department of Health (DOH) in cooperation with the Philippine Information Agency (PIA) shall carry out a national campaign to increase public awareness and knowledge of Chronic Fatigue Syndrome.

Activities under the national campaign shall include:

1. The dissemination of information on recent findings about CFS, its probable causes, prevention, diagnosis, and available treatments.

2. Information on how to provide the necessary emotional support to a family member, relative or friend suffering from CFS.

SECTION 5. Implementing Agency. – The Department of Health (DOH), in cooperation with the Philippine Information Agency (PIA), is hereby authorized and directed to adopt a system to implement and carry out the provisions of this Act. The DOH shall, within 60 days from the effectivity of this Act, promulgate rules and regulations to carry out and enforce the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 6. Appropriations. – The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act is hereby authorized to be appropriated from the National Treasury.

SECTION 7. Separability Clause. – If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other provisions hereof.

SECTION 8. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, orders, and issuances, or portions thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 9. Effectivity Clause. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,