

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Philippines



SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **6543**

INTRODUCED BY CONGRESSMAN ALFRED VARGAS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Constitution recognizes the importance of health of the Filipino people. It provides that:

The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them. (Article II, Section 15)

*The State shall establish and maintain an effective food and drug regulatory system and **undertake appropriate health, manpower development, and research responsive to the country's health needs and problems.** (Article XIII, Section 12)*

According to the Department of Health, oral disease continues to be a serious public health problem in the country. The Department's National Monitoring and Evaluation Dental Survey states that about 83 Million Filipinos suffer from tooth decay. Furthermore, the study also showed that seven out of ten Filipinos have never sought the services of a dentist.

To take the necessary steps to improving the oral care and hygiene of the Filipino people, this bill seeks to create a dental unit in each of the rural health units (RHUs) listed under the Department of Health.

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


ALFRED VARGAS

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HOUSE BILL NO. _____

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AN ACT
CREATING A DENTAL UNIT IN EVERY RURAL HEALTH UNIT UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AS PART OF THE PRIMARY APPROACH IN THE DELIVERY OF HEALTH SERVICES AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy. - It is the policy of the State to pursue the Primary Health Care Approach in the delivery of health services and to undertake the appropriate health human resource development for this policy and to promote preventive dental healthcare in the rural areas as part of the Primary Health Care strategy.

SEC. 2. Definition of Terms. -

- a. "Rural Health Unit" - also known as Main Health Center. It is composed of a doctor, a nurse and a midwife. Its function is to carry out the public health functions of the Department of Health which includes both preventive and curative health care.
- b. "Dental Unit" - composed of a public health dentist and a trained Barangay Health Worker as a dental aide.

SEC. 3. Creation of Dental Unit. - As part of the Primary Health Care Approach, there is hereby created a dental unit in every rural health unit under the supervision of the Department of Health.

SEC. 4. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - The Department of Health shall issue rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 5. Funding. - The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be funded from the current fiscal year's appropriation for the Department of Health. Thereafter, such amount as may be necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 6. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official Gazette and in any newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.