

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila
SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 7449

Introduced by Representatives Pantaleon D. Alvarez, Rodolfo C. Fariñas and Karlo Alexei B. Nograles

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In 2016, around 800,000 children were administered with dengue vaccine Dengvaxia in the hopes of eradicating, if not reducing, the dengue incidents in the country. Later, however, the World Health Organization released a report finding that Dengvaxia may be ineffective or may even increase the risk in those who are *seronegative*, or those who have not yet been infected with dengue, at the time of first vaccine.¹

In recent months, various reports on deaths possibly caused by the vaccine have been publicized, resulting in mass hysteria and public outcry for accountability. As of date, investigations have been conducted trying to determine whether or not the vaccine caused the deaths of several children who were vaccinated.

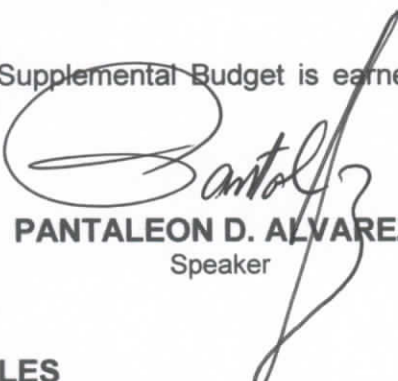
With the apparent health crisis, the Department of Health suspended the administration of Dengvaxia. On demand of the Government, Zuellig Pharma, the Local distributor of the Dengvaxia manufacturer Sanofi Pasteur, refunded the amount of around P1.16 Billion covering the unused vials of Dengvaxia vaccines.

This bill seeks to appropriate the said amount to fund the much needed support to the vaccines by providing them with medical assistance for hospitalization, medical kits, out-patient care services, including laboratory tests, among others. This is to allay the fears of the public on the purported effects of Dengvaxia and to prevent further deaths and illnesses of those administered with the vaccine, regardless of cause.

To reiterate, regardless of the cause of these deaths and illnesses, it is incumbent upon the State to intervene by providing assistance to those who were administered with the vaccine. This is in line with the State's policy of protecting and promoting the right to health of the people.²

In view of the foregoing, the immediate enactment of this Supplemental Budget is earnestly sought.


RODOLFO C. FARIÑAS
Majority Leader


PANTALEON D. ALVAREZ
Speaker


KARLO ALEXEI B. NOGRALES
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations

¹ Dengue vaccine: WHO position paper – July 2016, available at <http://www.who.int/wer/2016/wer9130.pdf?ua=1> (last accessed on March 21, 2018).

² 1987 Constitution, Art. II, Sec. 15.

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AN ACT
APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF ONE BILLION ONE HUNDRED SIXTY ONE
MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED TEN THOUSAND PESOS (P1,161,710,000) AS
SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR FY 2018 AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. *Appropriations.* – The sum of One Billion One Hundred Sixty One Million Seven Hundred Ten Thousand Pesos (P1,161,710,000) is hereby appropriated out of any funds in the National Treasury of the Philippines not otherwise appropriated, as supplemental appropriations for the FY 2018 Budget.

SECTION 2. *Assistance to Dengvaxia Vaccinees.* The sum of One Billion One Hundred Sixty One Million Seven Hundred Ten Thousand Pesos (P1,161,710,000) is hereby appropriated to fund the assistance to the Dengvaxia vaccinees, which amount shall be used exclusively for the following activities and/or projects, namely: (a) Human Resource for Health (HRH) Deployment; (b) Public Health Management; and (c) Assistance to Indigent Patients either Confined or Out-Patient in Government Hospitals/ Specialty Hospitals / LGU Hospitals / Philippine General Hospital / West Visayas State University Hospital.

SECTION 3. *Use and Release of Funds.* – The amount appropriated shall be released by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) to the Department of Health (DOH) in accordance with budgeting, accounting and auditing laws, rules and regulations. The DOH shall issue the guidelines necessary for the proper implementation of the foregoing activities and/or projects for the benefit of Dengvaxia vaccinees.

SECTION 4. *Applicability of General and Special Provisions in the FY 2018 General Appropriations Act.* – The amounts herein appropriated shall be used for the purposes indicated and subject to the relevant special and general provisions under Republic Act 10964 or the FY 2018 GAA.

SECTION 5. *Availability of Appropriations.* – The appropriations authorized in this Act shall be available for release and obligation for the purposes specified from the date of the effectivity of this Act until December 31, 2018.

SECTION 6. *Transparency Provisions.* – The DOH shall ensure that the details of activities and/or projects are included as part of the information posted on their transparency seals

required under Section 99 of the General Provisions under Republic Act 10964 or the FY 2018 GAA.

SECTION 7. *Separability Clause.* – If, for any reason or reasons, any part or provision of this Act shall be declared as unconstitutional or invalid, the other parts or provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 8. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect immediately upon its publication.

Approved,