

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1724



INTRODUCED BY CONGRESSMAN ALFRED VARGAS

A RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT TO REALLOCATE THE AMOUNT OF ONE BILLION PESOS FROM AVAILABLE SAVINGS TO AUGMENT THE ALLOCATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT, SPECIFICALLY FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING AMELIORATION ASSISTANCE FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE CONTROVERSIAL DENG VAXIA VACCINES, IN TERMS OF COUNSELLING, MEDICAL AID, AND EMERGENCY ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO THE AFFECTED FAMILIES

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 10964, otherwise known as the 2018 General Appropriations Act, was enacted into law last December 29, 2017, whereby the amount of Php 3.767 trillion was earmarked to finance government programs, projects, services and, activities for Fiscal Year 2018;

WHEREAS, the so-called "*The People's Proposed Budget*" allocated Php 107.2 billion for the Department of Health (DOH), while Php 141.8 billion for the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD);

WHEREAS, sometime in November of last year, the issue on the controversial Dengvaxia vaccines erupted in the mass media after its distributor, the pharmaceutical company Sanofi Pasteur, issued a statement on the negative effects of the said Dengvaxia vaccines;

WHEREAS, Sanofi Pasteur announced categorically that results of new clinical data analysis found that Dengvaxia is more risky for people not previously infected by the virus, and that "for those not previously infected by dengue virus the analysis found that in the longer term, more cases of severe disease could occur following vaccination upon a subsequent dengue infection; thus, for individuals who have not been previously infected by dengue virus, vaccination should not be recommended;"

WHEREAS, following Sanofi Pasteur's announcement, the DOH ordered the temporary suspension of the dengue vaccination program;

WHEREAS, records show that the DOH has already spent Php 3.5 billion for the procurement of the Dengvaxia vaccines, which have been administered to 733,713 children in Metro Manila, Central Luzon, and the region of Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, and Quezon, approximately 10 percent of whom, or about 73,000, have not had dengue yet;

WHEREAS, both the Senate and the House of Representatives have conducted separate legislative inquiries on the controversy, especially in view of several reports that several children have died a few months after they were vaccinated with Dengvaxia;

WHEREAS, while Sanofi Pasteur has refunded the DOH the amount of Php 1.16 billion representing the unused Dengvaxia vaccines, it has turned down the Health Department's demand to reimburse the full Php 3.5 billion for the used and unused vaccines, stating that agreeing to the demand will be an admission that Dengvaxia does not work;

WHEREAS, what is worse is that the Dengvaxia maker has also rejected the DOH's request to financially support the vaccinated children who are, or may be, hospitalized;

WHEREAS, as an unfortunate consequence of this uproar, there is a decline in children's vaccinations against other diseases such as flu, polio, and measles, with doctors saying that parents refuse vaccines due to the Dengvaxia scare; in fact, in January of this year, a number of parents in Zamboanga refused the DOH's deworming program due to misunderstanding the Dengvaxia issue;

WHEREAS, the whole controversy has caused not only panic and paranoia among the vaccinated children and their parents, but also mental and emotional trauma among the families of the children who have died;

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need for the government to provide funding, whether or not Sanofi Pasteur decides to reimburse the DOH the full amount paid for the Dengvaxia vaccines, to finance the needed cure or medical care for the vaccinated children, as well as for counseling and emergency economic assistance to the families of the deceased victims.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Department of Budget and Management reallocate the amount of One Billion Pesos from available savings to augment the allocations of the Department of Health and the Department of Social Welfare and Development, specifically for the purpose of providing amelioration assistance for the victim of the controversial Dengvaxia vaccines, in terms of counselling, medical aid, and emergency economic assistance to the affected families.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the needed amount will be sourced from the Savings of the 2017 National Budget, to be certified by the National Treasurer on the availability of such funds.

Adopted,


ALFRED VARGAS