

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 878

Introduced by Rep. Precious Hipolito Castelo

EXPLANATORY NOTE

If the country is to stand at par with the top medical education destination in the world that is Cuba, the first thing it needs to address is the doctor shortage. The present doctor-population ratio of 1:33,000 is a far cry from the 1:1,000 in Cuba, majority of whom are primary care physicians.¹

The Philippine Medical Association said there are 130,000 licensed physicians in the country, but only 70,000 are active in the profession. A good number have actually turned to nursing and work as nurses overseas.²

Reckoning this sad reality and to stem the considerable gap, there is now an urgent need for a legislative fiat granting scholarship grants to qualified medical students. For the most part, the success of a medical student depends on his ability to sustain the financial aspect of his studies. Hence, to put in place a scholarship system in the medical field is to ensure a higher success rate of producing more doctors in the land.

The immediate passage of this timely measure is most earnestly sought.


PRECIOUS HIPOLITO CASTELO

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AN ACT
PROVIDING MEDICAL SCHOLARSHIPS IN STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES TO QUALIFIED STUDENTS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1: This Act shall be known as the "The National Medical Scholarship Act."

SEC. 2. State universities and colleges shall hereby confer a full scholarship grant to all incoming first year medical students who graduated as top ten of their class and whose parents' combined income is below economic standards.

SEC. 3. The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be charged against the 2019 appropriations of the Commission on Higher Education. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continuous implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 4. This Act shall take effect upon its publication in the Official Gazette and in at least three newspapers of general circulation thirty (30) days upon its approval.

Approved,