

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2570

Introduced by Rep. Precious Hipolito Castelo

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The next time a poor individual goes to a public hospital, medical center or sanitarium, he or she does not have to be surprised that the hospital or medical center or sanitarium will only demand from him or her how much he or she can pay.

This "pay-what-you-can" shall be the new policy of government in order to actually assess more objectively how well any public hospital, medical center or sanitarium has performed to the optimum on its mandate of health care delivery.

Thus, this bill envisions that specialty hospitals, regional hospitals, medical centers and sanitariums should implement this "pay-what-you-can" policy so that poor patients do not have to worry about their treatment, confinement or hospitalization, and healing from their illnesses. There are the following:

1. Amang Rodriguez Medical Center
2. Dr. Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital
3. East Avenue Medical Center
4. Jose R. Reyes Memorial Medical Center
5. National Center for Mental Health
6. National Children's Hospital
7. Philippine Orthopedic Center
8. Quirino Memorial Medical Center
9. Research Institute for Tropical Medicine
10. Rizal Medical Center
11. San Lazaro Hospital
12. Tondo Medical Center

In addition to abovementioned list, the following shall also implement this "pay-what-you-can" policy, namely:

1. Lung Center of the Philippines
2. National Kidney and Transplant Institute
3. Philippine Children's Medical Center
4. Philippine Heart Center
5. Philippine Institute of Traditional and Alternative Health Care

The whole rationale of this piece of legislative measure is anchored on the view that the proposal while it sounds novel or bold is actually just a simple mechanism of check and balance.

It is interesting to note that all the aforementioned hospitals, medical centers or institutes enjoy government subsidies for them to carry out their mandated service related programs, projects or activities to the extent that they are even receiving donations from various donor institutions.

And another part of this check-and-balance mechanism is to check and count how much in guaranty letters from the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office go into the budgetary, fiscal and management affairs of each of these hospitals, medical centers, institutes or sanitaria such that their appropriated budgetary shares could have translated into savings. In other words, it is time to separate from apparent fiscal mismanagement the 'grain from the chaff' so that government could support them even more effectively in the overall health care delivery.

The immediate passage of this bill is therefore sought.



PRECIOUS HIPOLITO CASTELO

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AN ACT
INSURING THAT GOVERNMENT SPECIALTY HOSPITALS, MEDICAL CENTERS,
INSTITUTES OR SANITARIA EFFECTIVELY IMPLEMENT "PAY-WHAT-YOU-CAN
POLICY" FOR POOR PATIENTS FOR THEIR TREATMENT, CONFINEMENT OR
HOSPITALIZATION, AND HEALING AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the "Pay-What-You-Can Hospital Entitlement Policy Act."

SEC. 2. Every poor patient seeking diagnosis, treatment and cure from disease of illness shall be entitled to the policy of a government special hospital, medical center, institute or sanitarium duly authorized to implement the new "pay-what-you-can" policy.

SEC. 3. Under this Act, the Department of Health in collaboration with the concerned hospital, medical center, institute or sanitarium as well as with the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office shall issue appropriate rules, regulations and guidelines to effectively implement this "pay-what-you-can" policy as an entitlement of poor patients.

SEC. 4. This Act shall take effect thirty (30) days after its publication in the Official Gazette and in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,