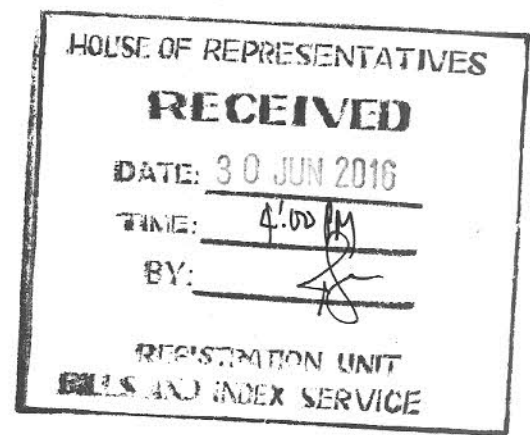


Republic of the Philippines  
**House of Representatives**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS  
1<sup>st</sup> Regular Session

House Bill No. **718**



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**Introduced by Congressman Alfredo D. Vargas III**

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#### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Breast cancer is the most common type of cancer in the country and is the primary cause of death among Filipino women<sup>1</sup>. With one out of every 13 Filipinas expected to develop breast cancer in her lifetime, the Philippines ranks first in breast cancer incidences in Asia.<sup>2</sup>

It is important to note, however, that breast cancer is preventable and curable. Through early screening and detection, coupled with proper treatment, the physical, emotional, and economic consequences of being afflicted by breast cancer can be prevented. Thus, it is critical that breast cancer patients are given the maximum benefits and opportunities heal.

This bill seeks to designate the month of October as the Breast Cancer Awareness Month. It also directs the Department of Health, the Department of Education, and local government units to formulate and implement public education programs on breast cancer.

Through this proposal, we are raising the citizens' awareness on the prevention, detection, and treatments for breast cancer, thereby giving patients better chances of survival.

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



**ALFREDO D. VARGAS III**

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<sup>1</sup> Philip C. Tubeza. *Breast cancer is the most prevalent in PH*. Philippine Daily Inquirer. Available at: <http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/291078/breast-cancer-is-the-most-prevalent-in-ph> [29 June 2016]

<sup>2</sup> Inquirer.net. *PH highest breast cancer incidence rate in Asia, health experts say*. Available at: <http://lifestyle.inquirer.net/128663/ph-highest-breast-cancer-incidence-rate-in-asia-health-experts-say> [29 June 2016]

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS**  
1<sup>st</sup> Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 718**

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**Introduced by Congressman Alfredo D. Vargas III**

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**AN ACT**  
**DECLARING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER OF EVERY YEAR AS "BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH"**

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "Breast Cancer Awareness Month Act."

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – Article II, Section 15 of the Constitution states that the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them. Furthermore, the State recognizes the need to raise awareness among Filipinos about the dangers of breast cancer and possible prevention of this illness.

SECTION 3. *Awareness Month.* – The month of October of every year shall be designated as "Breast Cancer Awareness Month."

SECTION 4. *Public Education and Awareness Program.* – The Department of Health in conjunction with the Department of Education and local governments shall create a comprehensive public education and awareness program on the prevention and threats of breast cancer. The program shall include modules on prevention, detection, and treatments for breast cancer.

SECTION 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Health, in coordination with the Secretary of Education, will formulate the implementing rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 6. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the Act or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause.* - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SECTION 8. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in any national newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,