The Constitution states that it is the policy of the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them. Further, it is mandated that the State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost. More importantly, there shall be priority for the needs of the underprivileged sick, elderly, disabled, women, and children.

Northern Mindanao Medical Center (NMMC) is a 600-bed capacity government hospital. It has been in existence for 100 years and has achieved great accomplishments in terms of infrastructure projects, procurement of hospital facilities, training and development of medical officers and personnel.

NMMC has been the main hospital in Cagayan de Oro City and even in the entire Region X. It has continuously provided quality health care not only to the people of Cagayan de Oro City but also to the entire region. In fact, it has been admitting patients beyond its bed capacity. For 2019, at least 1,000 patients are admitted to the hospital every day. Hence, to further enhance its capacity of promoting public health and to cater medical assistance to indigent patients, there is a need to increase its bed capacity from 600 to 1200.

In view thereof, immediate approval of this Bill is sought.

RUFUS B. RODRIGUEZ
AN ACT
INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF THE NORTHERN MINDANAO MEDICAL CENTER IN CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7938, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

Section 1. Section 2 of Republic Act No. 7938, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 2. The hospital facilities of the Northern Mindanao Medical Center shall be upgraded and increased, consistent with the requirements of modern medical technology and its status as a medical center. Accordingly, its bed capacity shall be increased from six hundred (600) beds to one thousand two hundred (1200) beds."

Section 2. Section 3 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 3. The number of medical personnel, the budget for personnel services and maintenance and other operating expenses of the Northern Mindanao Medical Center shall correspondingly be increased. The Department of Health, in coordination with the Department of Budget and Management, shall determine the additional plantilla positions to be created pursuant to this Act."

Section 3. Section 3 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 4. The increase in bed capacity of the Northern Mindanao Medical Center from six hundred (600) beds to one thousand two hundred (1200) beds shall be implemented immediately upon approval of this Act."

Section 4. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,