

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1267

Introduced by HONORABLE LUIS RAYMUND F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The state of oral health in the country is alarmingly concerning. 87% of Filipinos suffered from tooth decay in 2011, according to the National Monitoring and Evaluation Dental Survey¹. In 2006, the National Oral Health Survey showed that 97% of six-year-old children suffered from tooth decay². For the Department of Health (DOH), oral disease continues to be a serious public health problem in the Philippines³.

A factor to this might be how Filipinos may not consider dental health as a priority, with 7 out of 10 Filipinos never having been to a dentist⁴. Education on bad oral hygiene and how it can lead to tooth decay and gum diseases and lead to more serious conditions such as heart disease may be lacking. Awareness on the problem and access to facilities is imperative for Filipinos to practice better oral care⁵.

In line with the administration's goal for a universal health coverage and investing in its people, this bill proposes to create a dental unit in each of the Rural Health Units listed under the DOH. This allows for more accessible dental health care facilities and personnel, and ensures that dentists and dental services are available, especially in areas where facilities are not easily reachable.

The approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.

¹ <https://www.rappler.com/brandrap/stories/83854-oral-health-more-attention-ph>

² <http://www.doh.gov.ph/dental-health-program>

³ <http://www.manilatimes.net/oral-health-matters/312367/>

⁴ <https://www.rappler.com/brandrap/rich-media/91303-important-oral-health-filipinos>

⁵ <http://www.manilatimes.net/oral-health-matters/312367/>

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AN ACT

CREATING A DENTAL UNIT IN EVERY RURAL HEALTH UNIT UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AS PART OF THE PRIMARY APPROACH IN THE DELIVERY OF HEALTH SERVICES AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy. – It is the policy of the State:

- a) To pursue the Primary Health Care Approach in the delivery of health services and to undertake the appropriate health human resource development for this policy; and
- b) To promote preventive dental healthcare in the rural areas as part of the Primary Health Care strategy.

SECTION 2. Definition of Terms. –

- a) "Rural Health Unit" – also known as Main Health Center. It is composed of a doctor, a nurse and a midwife. Its function is to carry out the public health functions of the Department of Health which includes both preventive and curative health care;
- b) "Dental Unit" – composed of a public health dentist and a trained Barangay Health Worker as a dental aide;

SECTION 3. *Creation of Dental Unit.* – As part of the Primary Health Care Approach, there is hereby created a dental unit in every health unit under the supervision of the Department of Health.

SECTION 4. *Rules and Regulations.* – The Department of Health shall issue rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 5. *Funding.* – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be funded from the current fiscal year's appropriation for the Department of Health. Thereafter, such amount as may be necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 6. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,