EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Province of Camarines Sur including the cities of Naga and Iriga is the only province in the Philippines without any provincial hospital. The reason for this is that the provincial hospital then located in the Municipality of Naga which later on became a city, was converted into a regional hospital and then into the Bicol Medical Center (BMC).

But the Bicol Medical Center as it stands today for the various services it has to offer has only three hundred bed capacity in its main buildings in Naga City which are earmarked among other for Internal Medicine, Obstetrics, Gynecology, Pediatrics, Surgery, Orthopedics, Eyes, Ears, Nose and Throat, Dialysis Unit, Physical Therapy Services and Diagnostic Laboratory Facilities. The BMC itself needs expansion in terms of bed capacity, equipment and professional personnel.

It should be highlighted that one of the biggest gaps in the province of Camarines Sur in terms of health care is the Obstetrics, Gynecology, Pediatrics needs of the province with 35 municipalities and 2 cities.

Apart from local concerns, it is to be re-emphasized that it is our country’s commitment under the UN Sustainable Development Goals to reduce child mortality, improve mental health and combat other women’s and children’s diseases. The establishment
of the Bicol Women’s and Children’s Hospital as herein proposed is geared towards
the attainment of such goal within the province of Camarines Sur.

It is therefore proposed in this bill that instead of reestablishing a provincial hospital
for general medical services, a women’s and children’s hospital be organized as a
specialized institution that will complement and supplement the facilities and services
that the BMC is presently able to offer.

It is proposed therefore that a 200 bed-capacity hospital strictly for women’s and
children’s health requirements as defined under this bill be organized through the
enactment of the appropriate law as herein proposed under this bill.

This proposed bill has also been approved at third and final reading during the 17th
Congress of the House of Representatives but was unable to move forward in the
Senate. Considering the merits of this bill and its approval in the prior Congress, early
approval hereof is earnestly requested.

Luis Raymundo “Ray” F. Villafuerte, Jr.
Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. __________

Introduced by HON. LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF WOMEN’S AND CHILDREN’S
HOSPITAL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF PAMPLONA IN THE PROVINCE OF
Camarines Sur, TO BE KNOWN AS THE BICOL WOMEN’S AND CHILDREN’S
HOSPITAL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF

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

SECTION. 1. There shall be established under the direct supervision of the Secretary
of the Department of Health, a women’s and children’s hospital in the Municipality of
Pamplona in the Province of Camarines Sur, to be known as the Bicol Women’s and
Children’s Hospital. It shall be authorized to operate a two hundred (200)-bed capacity
hospital dedicated to women’s and children’s health requirement.

SEC. 2. The Hospital shall specialize on the care of women and children and shall
focus on women and children health care, prenatal testing, obstetrician and
gynecology services, pediatrics care, lactation programs, nutrition services, neonatal
care, immunization services, postpartum depression support and education classes
for parenting, and women’s and children’s health awareness.
SEC. 3. The Provincial Government of Camarines Sur shall provide funding for the establishment and operation of the Bicol Women's and Children's Hospital. The Secretary of Health shall include in the Department's subsidy program, support for the capital outlay of the said hospital.

SEC. 4. The Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,