

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session
HOUSE BILL NO. 3532



Introduced by Rep. Precious Hipolito Castelo

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill contemplates on granting adequate days of paid leave to cancer patients. Their having contracted the disease is blight enough and their having to worry about their work remissness should be their least concern. Among all the other critical diseases, cancer entails the most intensive treatment. Cancer treatment takes a lot of time and patients with the dreaded disease should be accorded reasonable leeway in order to go through the treatment.

The alarming incidence of cancer cases in the Philippines gives rise to this piece of legislation. On breast cancer alone, the Department of Health and the Philippine Cancer Society, Inc. confirmed its high prevalence in the country, stating a report that breast cancer is the most common cancer in the Philippines, taking at least 16 percent of the 50,000 cases diagnosed with the cancer (2010 Philippine Cancer Facts and Estimates).¹

The government should make it a policy to support cancer patients in every possible way and allowing them to be treated without losing their capacity to earn would be a moral and rational act on the part of the government. This positive and encouraging gesture would bolster the hope of the cancer patients to look forward to the road of healing as optimistically as they possibly can.

Hence, the immediate passage of this proposed measure is highly recommended.


PRECIOUS HIPOLITO CASTELO

¹ The ABCs of breast cancer <http://psmo.org.ph/the-abcs-of-breast-cancer/>

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AN ACT
GRANTING CANCER PATIENTS THIRTY (30) DAYS PAID LEAVE TO UNDERGO
TREATMENT OF THEIR DISEASE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the "Cancer Treatment Leave Act."

SEC. 2. There is hereby granted to all cancer patients a maximum of thirty (30) days paid leave to allow them to undergo treatment, provided, they have been employed for at least one (1) year at the time of availment.

SEC. 3. The amount necessary for the effective implementation of this Act shall be charged against the appropriations for the Department of Labor and Employment under the current General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such amount as may be necessary for its continued implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 4. The Department of Labor and Employment, in coordination with the Department of Health, shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 5. All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed accordingly.

SEC 6. This Act shall take effect thirty (30) days upon publication in the Official Gazette and in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,