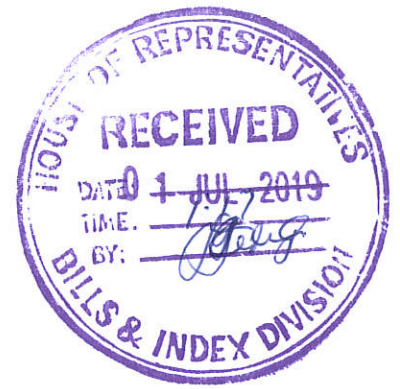


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session
HOUSE BILL NO. 387

Introduced by Representative Ma. Lourdes T. Arroyo

EXPLANATORY NOTE

It is the declared policy of the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.

Oral health is fundamental to overall health, well-being and quality of life. A healthy mouth enables people to interact and socialize without embarrassment and discomfort. Lack of proper dental care may lead to tooth decay and gum diseases that weakens bodily defenses leading to potentially more dangerous infections.

According to the Department of Health, Dental Caries (tooth decay) and Periodontal Diseases (gum diseases) are the two most common oral health diseases affecting Filipinos. 87.4 % of Filipinos suffer from dental caries while 48.3 % have gum disease. Statistics likewise reveals that 7 out of 10 Filipinos have never even been to a dentist.

The Philippine Dental Association has stated that dental care is the most neglected aspect of health. It is a fact that most of the health programs implemented in the country deal with illnesses but rarely involve dental care. Dental care missions are usually conducted in rural areas by civic organizations and sometimes never reach far-flung rural areas.

As such, it is imperative to establish a dental unit in every rural health unit under the Department of Health, as this bills seeks to propose. This is one way of helping Filipinos secure dental health care.

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


MA. LOURDES T. ARROYO

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 387

Introduced by HON. MA. LOURDES T. ARROYO

AN ACT
CREATING A DENTAL UNIT IN EVERY RURAL HEALTH UNIT UNDER THE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND APPROPRIATING 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 to pursue the Primary Health Care Approach in the delivery of health services and to undertake the appropriate health human resources development for this policy as well as to promote preventive dental healthcare in the rural areas.

SEC. 2. *Creation of Dental Unit.* - As part of the Primary Health Care Approach, there is hereby created a dental unit in every rural health unit under the supervision of the Department of Health.

SEC. 3. *Rules and Regulations.*- The Department of Health shall issue rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 4. *Appropriations.* - The amount necessary for the purpose of the Act shall be funded out of the appropriations of 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.

SEC. 5. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,