

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1367



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**Introduced by Representative Ferdinand L. Hernandez**

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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**

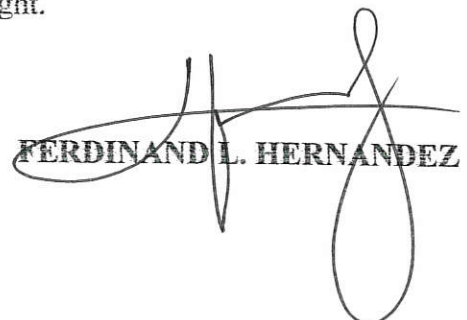
EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution mandates the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people and to undertake appropriate health human resource development responsive to the country's needs and problems.

Throughout the years, our country has made gains in ensuring the promotion and protection of our people's health; however, several gaps remain, including the lack of an institutional means of promoting and ensuring the dental health of every Filipino. Almost entire communities in the country suffer from two of the most prevalent of dental diseases: tooth decay and gum diseases. With more than 92% of Filipinos recorded to be suffering from tooth decay or cavities, while more than 78% have gum diseases, we must find ways to immediately address this concern.

This proposed bill aims to reverse this situation by creating a dental unit in each of the rural health units (RHUs) listed under the Department of Health as part of the country's overall Primary Health Care strategy. By ensuring, through legislation, that each RHU under the DOH has at least one dentist serving the priority targets of dental health services, Filipino citizens will greatly benefit from early detection, prevention, and treatment of dental health issues, giving our people more reasons to smile.

The immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
**FERDINAND L. HERNANDEZ**

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Be it enacted by the Senate and the 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, including the necessary dental equipment.

**Section 3. 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.

**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.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official Gazette and in any newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,