

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Introduced by Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez*

House Bill No. 1843

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This bill seeks the establishment of breast care centers in every region nationwide to ensure that all Filipino women will have access to this particular health service in order to increase breast cancer awareness and prevention.

The Philippines has the highest breast cancer rate in Asia. Between 1993 to 1995, the age standardized incidence rate (ASR) was 43.2. By 2006, the ASR increased to 47.7. Another study claims that the world standardized rates are higher in Manila, 50 per 100,000 Filipinas are diagnosed with breast cancer. The city shares the same rate with Karachi, Pakistan. Most Filipino women diagnosed with breast cancer are between the ages of 35 and 50 years old. A local study shows that breast self-examination (BSE) is the most cost effective strategy in detecting cancer. Unfortunately, only 54 percent of Filipino women conduct BSE and only 27 percent of that number continues to practice it at an average of 9.2 times a year. Economic factor is the one of the primary factors for the late diagnosis of breast cancer among Filipino women. Other factors are non-awareness and fear. A 1997 Department of Health and World Health Organization study reported that there was a 79.1 percent non compliance rate among women found with breast masses residing in Metro Manila in terms of consulting hospitals and clinic for re-evaluation and possible treatment.

In a study conducted by the Philippine Society of Medical Oncology last October 2018, it was revealed that among Asian countries, the Philippines has the No.1 incidence of breast cancer. "Three out of 100 (Filipino) women will get breast cancer before age 75 and one out of 100 will die before reaching 75. Breast cancer accounts for 15 percent of all new cancer cases in the country for both sexes and 8 percent of all cancer deaths.

This bill seeks the need for specialized health services for Filipino women through the establishment of regional breast care centers. The centers, under the supervision of the Secretary of Department of Health, shall carry out several programs such as breast protection, breast surveillance, breast imaging and breast diagnostic and surgery. The centers shall be equipped with the necessary tools and devices to effectively implement the programs. In cooperation with the local government units and other government agencies in their respective areas, an extensive information campaign shall be sustained in order to raise the breast cancer awareness of the Filipino women in all regions of the country.

Finally, this measure mandates the coordination of regional and local education officials to guarantee that female high school students of both private and public schools are well informed about the disease to increase the rates of awareness, prevention and early detection.

For these reasons, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
RUFUS B. RODRIGUEZ

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House Bill No 1843

AN ACT

**PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BREAST CARE CENTERS IN EVERY REGION NATIONWIDE, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

**SECTION 1.** A breast care center, known in this Act as "Center", shall be established in every region of the country to spearhead the fight against breast cancer. It shall be a new department of existing regional of the National Government. Should there be no regional hospital in the region, the Center shall be attached to any district hospital in the region which is most accessible to the highest number of constituents.

**SECTION 2.** The Centers shall be provided with such equipment, tools, implements, devices, apparatus and personnel as may be necessary for them to carry out multiple programs such as Breast Protection, Breast Surveillance, Breast Imaging, Breast Diagnostic and Surgery, Breast Cancer Chemotherapy and Breast Cancer Awareness and Protection.

**SECTION 3.** The Secretary of the Department of Health shall issue such guidelines, orders or rules and regulations as may be necessary for the establishment of a Center in every regional hospital of the national government or in a district hospital to be designated by the Secretary of Health for being the most accessible to the highest number of constituents in a region where there is no existing regional hospital; for the acquisition of the necessary equipment, tools, implements, devices and apparatus, the hiring of personnel and fix reasonable fees for the services of the Centers and to carry out the provisions and purposes of this Act.

**SECTION 4.** The Centers shall, in coordination with local government units, local health offices, the Philippine Information Agency and other government agencies, shall spearhead a sustained and extensive information and awareness campaign within their respective region to raise the level of awareness of the region's constituents especially the women sector on the ills, causes and symptoms of the disease for its early detection and prevention.

**SECTION 5.** The Centers shall coordinate with regional and local education officials to ensure that female high school students in both public and private schools are taught the pertinent information about the disease and are trained to habitually self-examine themselves as a part of the regular secondary curriculum.

**SECTION 6.** To fully implement the provisions of the Act, the Secretary of Health shall immediately include in the Department's program the operationalization of the Centers, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

**SECTION 7.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,