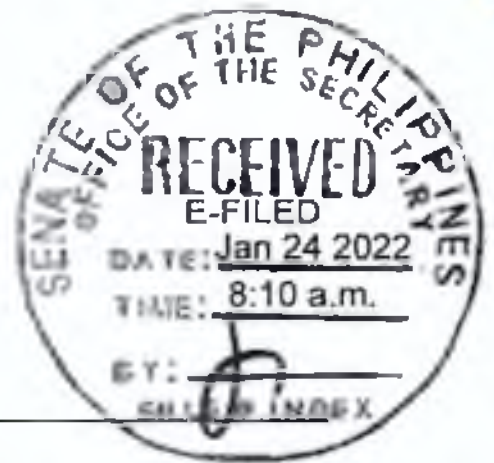


**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Third Regular Session )**

**SENATE  
S.B. No. 2482**



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Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

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**AN ACT  
INSTITUTING A NATIONAL HEALTH PROGRAM TO COMBAT SYSTEMIC  
LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS (SLE) DISEASE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS  
THEREFOR**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Section 15, Article II of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides:

"The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health and consciousness among them."

Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE) is a severe auto-immune connective tissue disease in which antibodies are generated to a range of autoantigens. It triggers inflammation in the different tissues of the body particularly when the immune system attacks its own tissue. There is no cure for SLE however medical interventions and lifestyle changes can help control it.

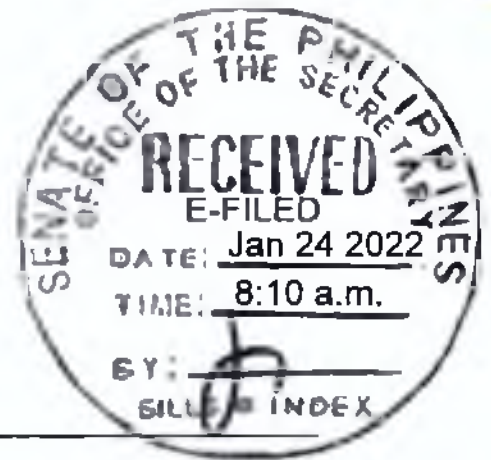
The proposed bill seeks to promote awareness and information for the public regarding SLE and to strengthen research and development to support and manage treatment of this disease. The increased awareness will encourage understanding, early detection and intervention which are critical in alleviating symptoms

Upon these considerations, the prompt passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

**MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY**

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1 **AN ACT**  
2 **INSTITUTING A NATIONAL HEALTH PROGRAM TO COMBAT SYSTEMIC**  
3 **LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS (SLE) DISEASE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS**  
4 **THEREFOR**

5  
6 *Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in*  
7 *Congress assembled:*

8  
9 Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Comprehensive Lupus  
10 Prevention Act.”

11  
12 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to protect and  
13 promote the right to health of the people. As such, the State shall promote awareness  
14 of the health programs focusing on Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE) to empower  
15 citizens suffering therefrom to become, to the best of their potential, independent,  
16 self-reliant, and productive members of society.

17  
18 Sec. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – For the purpose of this Act. “Systemic Lupus  
19 Erythematosus” (SLE) or “Lupus” shall be construed to mean a chronic autoimmune  
20 disease where the immune system attacks the body’s cells and tissue, resulting in  
21 inflammation and tissue damage in different parts of the body, but most often  
22 affecting the heart, joints, skin, lungs, blood vessels, liver, kidneys, and nervous  
23 system, as diagnosed by a competent medical practitioner.

24  
25 Sec. 4. *National Survey and Research.* – The National Institute of Health (NIH)  
26 of the Department of Health (DOH) shall conduct an annual survey to determine the  
27 extent and total incidence and prevalence of persons with SLE in the country for the  
28 government to provide the necessary health interventions to address the needs faced  
29 by persons with lupus.

30  
31 Sec. 5. *Integrated Approach to Research in Cooperation with Concerned*  
32 *Research Agencies.* – Within six (6) months from the date of effectivity of this Act, the  
33 DOH shall ensure that there is no conflict of interest between the NIH’s research  
34 agenda and that of pharmaceutical corporations or other government agencies  
35 addressing the issue of lupus.

1  
2           *Sec. 6. National Program for Lupus Prevention and Treatment.* – The DOH shall  
3 implement a comprehensive and nationwide program on lupus prevention and  
4 treatment with the following objectives:

- 5  
6           a) to promote and provide mechanisms for early identification,  
7           screening, and diagnosis of persons suffering from lupus;  
8  
9           b) to promote public awareness, education, and information on  
10           issues concerning lupus;  
11  
12           c) to establish sustainable support networks for families of  
13           persons diagnosed with lupus;  
14  
15           d) to provide referral services to patients for appropriate  
16           educational and medical expertise and to identify appropriate  
17           education or medical facilities suited to the needs of  
18           patients;  
19  
20           e) to undertake research and collaborate with other institutions  
21           for the conduct of research activities pertaining to the disease;  
22  
23           f) to promote an advocacy discouraging bias against and  
24           stereotyping of afflicted persons;  
25  
26           g) to provide an avenue for the sharing of best practices on  
27           issues relating to early detection, prevention, cure, treatment,  
28           and rehabilitation of persons diagnosed with lupus; and  
29  
30           h) to network with other organizations, institutions, and  
31           professionals working on public programs for persons  
32           diagnosed with lupus;  
33

34           *Sec. 7. Programs and Service for Lupus Prevention.* – The programs and  
35 services that will be provided by the DOH shall include, but not be limited to, the  
36 following:

- 37  
38           a) orientation and counseling services for families of newly  
39           diagnosed persons;  
40  
41           b) establishment of national and regional referral services where  
42           the DOH shall maintain an updated list of health care  
43           institutions and practitioners concerned with the treatment of  
44           lupus;  
45  
46           c) publish a newsletter on current developments and research on  
47           lupus, as well as other reading materials on the early

1 detection, prevention, and treatment of lupus, and best  
2 practices for the care of diagnosed persons;

3 d) conduct of continuing education and training programs on the  
4 proper care of diagnosed persons; and

5  
6 e) establishment of a databank and an information and  
7 monitoring system on country-specific statistics pertaining to  
8 lupus.  
9

10 *Sec. 8. Lupus Early Detection and Screening Fees.* – The Philippine Health  
11 Insurance Corporation shall include the cost of early detection and screening programs  
12 for lupus as one of the available benefits to its members. The early detection and  
13 screening test fees shall be applied to, among others, testing cost, education, follow-  
14 up, and readable overhead expenses.  
15

16 *Sec. 9. Donations and Grants.* – The DOH, NIH, and other departments of the  
17 DOH that may thereafter be tasked with the implementation of this Act shall have the  
18 power to receive donations and grants from local and international donor institutions,  
19 foundations, and foreign donor agencies, provided that pertinent laws and rules on  
20 the receipt, accounting, and disbursement thereof shall be complied with.  
21

22 *Sec. 10. National Lupus Awareness Week.* – In order to grow national interest  
23 and participation in the issues and concerns of lupus patients, the first week of May  
24 shall annually be celebrated as “Lupus Awareness Week.” This week-long activity will  
25 be spearheaded by the DOH, in coordination with other concerned agencies,  
26 institutions, and stakeholders.  
27

28 *Sec. 11. Continuing Education and Training of Health Personnel and Service*  
29 *Providers on Lupus Prevention and Treatment.* – All DOH staff and health providers  
30 providing health services to persons diagnosed with lupus shall undergo a mandatory  
31 continuing education and training program to ensure the delivery of up-to-date and  
32 relevant services.  
33

34 *Sec. 12. Protection Against Forcible Administration of Medical Treatment or*  
35 *Enrollment in Programs.* – All persons administering treatment, counseling, or  
36 medication as well as all persons involved in the implementation of the DOH programs  
37 as mandated in this Act shall respect the right of each patient to determine for himself  
38 or herself the medical treatment to be administered as well as the programs wherein  
39 he or she will participate, if any.  
40

41 *Sec. 13. Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of  
42 this Act shall be included and incorporated in the annual general appropriations of the  
43 DOH.  
44

45 *Sec. 14. Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within six (6) months from the  
46 date of effectivity of this Act, the DOH shall promulgate the necessary implementing  
47 rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act.

1            *Sec. 15. Repealing Clause.* - All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders,  
2 rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with provisions of this Act are  
3 hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

4  
5            *Sec. 16. Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part of this Act is declared  
6 unconstitutional or invalid, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected shall  
7 remain in full force and effect.

8  
9            *Sec. 17. Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
10 publication in the Official Gazette or two (2) newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,