

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



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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*Introduced by Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez*

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House Bill No. **6656**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Many compounds found or introduced into the environment by human activity are capable of disrupting the hormone system of humans and animals. The consequences of such disruption can be profound because of the crucial role hormones play in controlling development. No standardized and validated screens or tests have been developed to routinely and systematically assess chemicals for disruptive effects on hormone systems.

The country for so many decades has experienced an increase in the incidence of such human disorders as childhood cancers, testicular cancer, hypospadias, juvenile diabetes, attention deficit-like hyperactivity disorders, autism, thyroid disorders, learning disabilities, cognitive impairment, and auto-immune disorders. Exposure to hormone-disrupting chemicals may be contributing to this increased incidence of human disorders. Hence, the impact on children's health as a result of prenatal exposures in particular needs further research.

Hormone disruption can occur at very low doses, especially when exposure occurs in the womb or immediately after birth, periods during which rapid development is occurring. Unfortunately, our country lacks the necessary research on this phenomenon and unless timely action is resorted to, there is no way of determining how the impacts of the same could be judiciously and crucially addressed.

The purpose of this measure is to establish regional multidisciplinary centers regarding women's health and disease prevention and to conduct a research program on hormone disruption, precisely to prevent if not completely resolve the apparent onslaught of diseases brought about by hormone disruption.

Through these centers, the effects of hormone disruption will be addressed; hence, preventing possible diseases which many women and their children suffer.

Hence, immediate passage of the bill is earnestly sought.

  
**RUFUS B. RODRIGUEZ**

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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*Introduced by Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez*

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House Bill No. **6656**

AN ACT

**ESTABLISHING MULTIDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH CENTERS REGARDING WOMEN'S HEALTH AND DISEASE PREVENTION AND CONDUCTING A RESEARCH PROGRAM ON HORMONE DISRUPTION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

**SECTION 1. Short Title** - This Act may be cited as the “**Women’s Health Research Act**”.

**SEC 2. Establishment of Multidisciplinary Research Centers regarding Women’s Health and Disease Prevention-**

(a) In General- There shall be established Regional Multidisciplinary Research Centers whose purpose is to conduct multidisciplinary research on environmental factors that may be related to the development of women’s health conditions. The centers, to be placed in major regional government or public hospitals, shall be under the management and supervision of a Director, who shall be appointed by the President on the basis of his or her at least ten (10) years of extensive experience as a medical practitioner or researcher in the field and earned management abilities from some reliable institution.

Said director shall report directly to the Secretary of Health, and coordinate with concerned local government units whose task primarily is to detail personnel who may assist in the many functions discharged by said centers.

(b) Research, Training, and Information and Education -

1) IN GENERAL - Each center under subsection (a) shall, with respect to the purpose described in such subsection-

- (A) conduct basic and clinical research;
- (B) develop protocols for training physicians, scientists, nurses, and other health and allied health professionals;
- (C) conduct training programs for such individuals;
- (D) develop model continuing education programs for such professionals; and
- (E) disseminate information to such professionals and the public.

(2) PRIORITY FOR PREVENTION ACTIVITIES- In carrying out the activities described in paragraph (1), each center under subsection (a) shall give priority to activities that are directed toward preventing the development in women of the diseases and conditions involved.

(c) Collaboration with Community- Each center under subsection (a) shall establish and maintain ongoing collaborations with community organizations in the geographic area served

by the center, including those that represent women with disorders that appear to stem from environmental factors and the health concerns of their offspring.

(d) Coordination of Centers; Reports - The Director shall, as appropriate, provide for the coordination of information among centers under subsection (a) and ensure regular communication between such centers.

(e) Structure of Center- Each center assisted under subsection (a) shall use the facilities of a single regional public hospital, or be formed from a consortium of cooperating institutions, meeting such requirements as may be prescribed by the Secretary of Health.

(f) Duration of Support- Support of a center under subsection (a) may be for a period not exceeding five (5) years. Such period may be extended for one (1) or more additional periods not exceeding 5 years, if the operations of such center have been reviewed by an appropriate technical and scientific peer review group established by the Director and if such group has recommended to the Director that such period should be extended.

**SEC 3. Research on Hormone Disruption.** - The Director shall also establish within the regional centers, a comprehensive program to--

(A) conduct research on the impact of chemicals that affect the health of women and children through disruption of the hormone systems;

(B) conduct research on the occurrence of hormone-disrupting chemicals in the environment and their effects on ecological and wildlife health;

(C) coordinate the design of a multi-agency research initiative on hormone disruption; and

(D) coordinate research on hormone disruption in the Philippines with such research conducted in other nations.

The program established under this section shall provide for the following:

- (A) Collection, compilation, publication, and dissemination of scientifically valid information on-
  - (i) possible human health effects of hormone-disrupting chemicals, with emphasis on exposures to low doses of individual chemicals and chemical mixtures during critical life stages of development, particularly effects of prenatal exposures on children's health;
  - (ii) the extent of human exposure to hormone-disrupting chemicals, with particular emphasis on exposures during critical life stages of development and in residential and occupational settings;
  - (iii) and exposure of wildlife species to hormone-disrupting chemicals and possible health effects associated with such exposures.
- (B) Research on mechanisms by which hormone-disrupting substances interact with biological systems.
- (C) Research on improved in vitro and in vivo methods to screen and test hormone disruption.
- (D) Research on the identity, levels, transport, and fate of

hormone-disrupting chemicals in the environment.

**SEC 4. Appropriations.** - For the purpose of carrying out this Act, the Department of Health y is authorized to appropriate in their budget such sums as may be necessary.

**SEC 5. Separability Clause.** - If any provision or part hereof, is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provisions not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

**SEC 6. Repealing Clause.** - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

**SEC 7. Effectivity Clause.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,