

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City  
NINETEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 6776

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**Introduced by HON. GUS S. TAMBUNTING**

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**AN ACT REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT TO GIVE FREE HEARING AID TO DEAF OR HEARING-IMPAIRED INDIGENT INDIVIDUALS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Sec. 15, Art. II of the 1987 Constitution states that “The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.”

In the Philippines, around 121,000 Filipinos are Deaf.<sup>1</sup> Often, the Hearing might not be conscious of them or their experiences but it doesn't mean that they do not exist. In fact, in the face of current events and changes going on in the country, it's important now more than ever to understand and work with various sectors, including the Deaf population.

The Philippines is known as one of the most disaster-prone nations in the world, at least tropical cyclones throughout the summer, Deaf people are also more likely to die in disaster situations than their hearing counterparts.<sup>2</sup> They are unable to speak with emergency medical services provided and there does not seem to be an emergency medical service specifically for Deaf Filipinos.

This bill aims to provide free hearing aid to deaf or hearing-impaired indigent individuals. The bill aims to help indigent deaf Filipinos to become productive citizens.

On behalf of the people of Parañaque City's Second District, and for the common good of the Filipino people, the approval of the said measure is earnestly sought.

  
**REP. GUS S. TAMBUNTING**  
2nd District, Parañaque City

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cnnphilippines.com/life/culture/2018/10/29/Filipino-Sign-Language.html>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.rappler.com/moveph/98514-deaf-blind-challenges-disasters/>

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INDIVIDUALS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF**

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

**Section 1: Short Title:** This Act shall be known as "The Free Hearing Aid Act."

**Section 2: Mandate of Department of social welfare and Development:** The Department of Social Welfare and Development shall continue with its mandate of providing programs and services to vulnerable sectors of society, such as persons with disability. Accordingly, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) is mandated to give assistive devices, such as hearing aid for deaf or hearing-impaired indigents, for each DSWD Field Office every year.

**Section 3: Deaf or Hearing Impaired Indigent Individual:** For purposes Of This Act, a "Deaf or Hearing-Impaired Indigent Individual" is a person who is deaf -people who have profound hearing loss, which implies very little or no hearing or those people with hearing loss ranging from mild to severe. People who could hardly communicate through spoken language and can benefit from hearing aids, cochlear implants, and other assistive devices. In addition from being deaf or hearing-impaired, these individuals have no visible means of income, or whose income is insufficient for family subsistence, as identified by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), based on specific criteria. All indigents identified by the DSWD under the National Household Targeting System (NHTS) for Poverty Reduction and others such acceptable methods, shall automatically be enrolled and covered under this Act.

**Section 4: Rules and Regulations:** The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) shall have the authority to promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the purpose of carrying into effect the provisions of this Act.

**Section 5: Appropriations:** The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into Law and thereafter.

**Section 6: Repealing Clause:** All laws, decrees, rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act shall be deemed amended or repealed accordingly.

**Section 7: Effectivity Clause:** This Act shall take effect after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in any newspaper of general circulation.

APPROVED