

## POSITION PAPER

ON

### HOUSE BILL NO. 2091

"AN ACT PROHIBITING HOSPITALS/CLINICS FROM REQUIRING PATIENTS TO BUY PRESCRIBED MEDICINES AND OTHER MEDICAL NEEDS AT THEIR PHARMACY OR DRUGSTORE, AND PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR"

(Introduced by Representatives Ramiro Jr., Loreto-Go, Lorenzo-Villareal, Espina and Unde)

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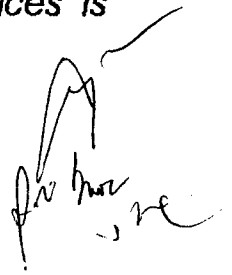
In every country of the world, whatever its political and religious persuasion, the government is responsible for the well-being of its people. It is the first duty of the government to promote and protect the human rights of every person, specially the rights to life, to health, and to live a healthy life, among other basic rights.

Ads are everywhere in the media blaring various health programs of the government.

But despite these campaign activities which are being paid for by the taxpayers, quality health services have yet to be efficiently and effectively delivered to some 70 million poor Filipinos throughout the country.

The virtual absence in quality health care could be traced to the undoing of health providers themselves. The public perception is that hospital owners can afford to be greedy at the expense of unsuspecting patients because of inutile government where the business of political upmanship, influence- peddling, and graft and corruption thrives even under the shadow of a life-threatening epidemic.

The Commission on Human Rights is in full accord with Representative Oscar Rodriguez' description of the present state of affairs in health development. He said that *"the decline in quality health care and its commodification wherein only the moneyed can avail of services is dehumanizing"*. *hmv*



The Commission maintains its firm stand that the government must exert more efforts to address the situation. It must provide a vigorous approach to health development and services, in accordance with the provisions of the 1987 Constitution, particularly, Section 15, Art. II on the State policy to protect and promote the right to health of the people, and in relation to Section 11, Art. XIII thereof.

Except for the penal provisions which must be increased to approximate the financial capabilities of private hospitals vis-a-vis the injury and damage that they may inflict upon the patients, the proposed measure addresses the alarming concern for a quality health care.

Further, it is strongly suggested that this Bill should be consolidated with House Bill No. 564 entitled "An Act Declaring The Rights Of Patients And Prescribing Penalties For Violations Thereof".

In view of the foregoing, the Commission on Human Rights strongly supports the immediate passage into law of House Bill No. 2091.

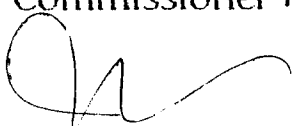
April 21, 1999, Quezon City.

  
AURORA P. NAVARRETE-RECINA  
Chairperson *hmm*

(ON MISSION)  
NASSER A. MAROHOMSALIC  
Commissioner *hmm*

  
VICENTE P. SIBULO  
Commissioner *hmm*

  
MERCEDES V. CONTRERAS  
Commissioner *hmm*

  
JORGE R. COQUIA  
Commissioner *hmm*