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SENATE

Senate Bill No. 1174

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INTRODUCED BY SEN. MANNY VILLAR

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EXPLANATORY NOTE

Ovarian cancer causes more deaths than any other cancer of the female reproductive system. When ovarian cancer is found and treated in its earliest stages, the five-year survival rate is 95%; however, most women who suffer from ovarian cancer are not diagnosed until the later stages of the cancer when the disease has spread and the five-year survival rate decreases to 30%.

More than half of the deaths from ovarian cancer occur in women between the ages of 55 and 74 years of age and approximately one quarter of ovarian cancer deaths occur in women between 35 and 54 years of age. Because early detection and treatment often mean the difference between life and death, it is important to increase awareness of the factors that put certain women at a higher risk for the disease: increased age; having a personal history of breast cancer or a family history of breast, ovarian, uterine, colon or other gastrointestinal cancers; and bearing no children.

Because the symptoms are vague and non-specific, women and their physicians often attribute them to more common conditions so that by the time the cancer is diagnosed the tumor has often spread beyond the ovaries.

Although development of a screening test to detect ovarian cancer remains a very active area of research, currently there is no definitive prevention strategy, but having regular pelvic examinations may decrease the overall risk of dying from ovarian cancer.



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**AN ACT  
ESTABLISHING AN OVARIAN CANCER PUBLIC AWARENESS  
CAMPAIGN**

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

**SECTION 1.** Title- This Act shall be known and cited as the "Ovarian Cancer Public Awareness Campaign".

**SECTION 2.** The Secretary of Health shall establish a public awareness campaign to inform the general public about the clinical significance of ovarian cancer and its public health implications. The campaign shall include, at a minimum, risk factors, symptoms, the need for early detection and methods of treatment.

The commissioner shall, at a minimum:

1. provide for the development of printed educational materials and public service announcements in English and Filipino; and
2. disseminate information for distribution to the public, through a variety of entities, including, but not limited to, local health agencies and clinics, physicians, health care facilities, county offices on aging, pharmacies, libraries, senior citizen centers, other community-based outreach programs and organizations, and the Department of Health's official website.

**SECTION 3.** The Department of Health shall urge all citizens to recognize "Ovarian Cancer Public Awareness Campaign" and shall provide encouragement and assistance to those organizations that offer educational, advocacy and support services for ovarian cancer's victims.

**SECTION 4.** Implementing Rules and Regulations.- The Department of Health shall promulgate the appropriate rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act within sixty (60) days from its approval.

**SECTION 5.** Repealing Clause.- Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the provision of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

**SECTION 6. Effectivity Clause.-** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.