Philippine Society for Orphan Disorders

UHCWATCH

The State of the Rare Disease Law: Continuing Implementation and the Delivery of Responsive Health Services to the Affected Population

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15 August 2022

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In 2016, Republic Act No. 10747, also known as the **Rare Diseases Act,** was signed after several years of relentless clamors from different stakeholders.

The Law is envisioned to **address the needs of persons with rare diseases** to increase their rate of survival.

Due to the low prevalence and the widely dispersed distribution of patients with rare diseases, there is an evident **disproportion in the availability of treatments and resources**.

After almost six years, legislators have successfully included in the **General Appropriations Act (GAA) of 2022** a specific funding **intended for the implementation** of the Law, worth **Php 104.9 million.**

The **COVID-19 pandemic exposed the country’s crippling socio-economic inequality**. While for many Filipinos, such inequality is an accepted reality in life, the pandemic brought the issue front and center of national conversations.

While inequality is a deeply complex issue with no clear-cut solution, **good governance, political reforms, social investments, and multi-sector efforts** are consistently considered **essential steps** to be taken.

“The **integration of health, social protection, and education** in the socioeconomic agenda is a laudable effort. This will **correct the serious pandemic management missteps** of the previous administration.”

Paths to Inclusive Governance
Philippine Daily Inquirer, 29 July 2022

There’s a need to continue the discussion to **further facilitate the progressive implementation of the Law** and call for more inputs to **sustain the support** that will **deliver health services**, **expand healthcare coverage and respond to the challenges** of rare disease patients.

Continuous support and advocacy from different stakeholders is needed to sustain a responsive healthcare system.

Adequate resources is vital to constantly respond with the needs of the public.

We must all work together to make **universal healthcare a reality for everyone**, and thereby “***no one will be left behind***”.

Thank you!