



Philippine Medical Association

PMA: CHANGING MINDSET IN CHARTING THE FUTURE

Member : World Medical Association (WMA)
Co-Founder : Confederation of Medical Association in Asia and Oceania (CMAAO)
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STATEMENT OF THE PHILIPPINE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION ON THE PROPOSED REVISION OF THE GENERICS LAW

The PHILIPPINE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION strongly opposes the enactment into law of Senate Bill No. 1648 authored by Senator Joseph Victor G. Ejercito which would require all physicians to prescribe medicines using only their generic names.

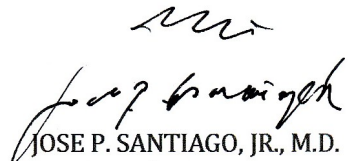
Let us begin by asking our Honorable Lawmakers these questions. If they, their spouses, parents, children or other loved ones are afflicted with a serious disease, or when they are in a medical critical condition where the life or limb of a patient is at stake, would they be willing to allow a doctor to prescribed only a generic medicine (without any statement as to the brand) even if the doctor entertains grave doubts about the quality and efficacy of such a generic medicine? Or would you rather give the doctor the independence to do what is best for a patient based on his experience and medical knowledge? If the doctor says that his prescribed branded medicine has the best chance of treating a patient, will you disagree?

It is best that the medical procedures to be undertaken, the mode of treatment and the medicines to be prescribed to a patient are left to the discretion of a doctor. The doctor prescribes a medicine after conducting a clinical observation of the patient, scrutinizing the medical history, studying the laboratory results and the circumstances surrounding a disease afflicting said patient and using his experience and medical knowledge about the quality and efficacy of a drug to be prescribed. Not all drugs, even if they belong to the same generic grouping, are similar in their interaction with a patient. Some generic drugs, based on the experience of a doctor, do not treat a patient or a patient will take more than the normal time to be healed or treated. Let it be known that some medicines being prescribed are not just to treat a patient but rather to prevent a disease from progressing to a more serious one. If a prescribed generic medicine does not treat or a disease will take a longer time to be cured than the normal curative period, the patient will suffer not only financially but emotionally and psychologically as well.

The above stated bill, if passed into law, will shift the burden of prescribing medicine to drug outlets and their employees who have at most scant knowledge of the practice of medicine and who have not medically examined a patient. In the matter of prescribing medicines and treating patients, a doctor should be trusted more than drug outlets and their employees.



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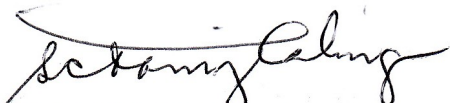
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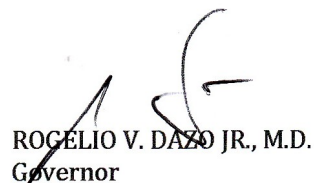
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
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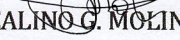
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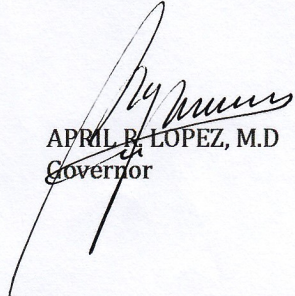
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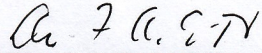
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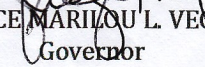
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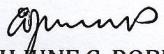

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