

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

**TWENTIETH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 4120**



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Introduced by Representative Jan Rurik D. Padiernos, GP (Galing sa Puso) Party-List

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### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The 1987 Philippine Constitution establishes the responsibility of the State to protect and promote the right to health through an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development, making services accessible to all at affordable costs and prioritizing the underprivileged, sick, elderly, disabled, women, and children.

The Philippines is facing a critical HIV pandemic with the fastest growing number of cases in the Asia-Pacific region. While the country is still considered low-prevalence, the rate of new infections is alarming, particularly among young people. The Department of Health (DOH) reports an average of 57 new HIV cases per day, a significant increase from previous years, and a worrying shift towards younger age groups.

As of March 2025, there were 139,610 confirmed cases of people with HIV, and the number is projected to reach 252,800 by the end of the year. In the first quarter of 2025, it is especially worrisome that a third of newly diagnosed HIV cases are among young Filipinos aged 15 to 24 years old. The youngest diagnosed case was 12 years old. Highlighting the direct impact on children, there are 371 cases (less than 1%) were diagnosed in those under 15 years old. These young people will need to be on treatment for life.

There are 145 HIV/AIDS-related deaths recorded from January to March 2025 and 96% of new infections were transmitted through sexual contact. While the data focuses on broader groups, the 12-year-old diagnosis confirms that children are directly contracting HIV. Although the DOH is focused on preventing vertical transmission (mother-to-child), coverage of pregnant women receiving antiretroviral therapy for prevention is still low at 16%.

Antiretroviral therapy (ART) is the treatment for HIV infection, involving a combination of medications that suppress the virus and prevent it from damaging the immune system. While ART cannot cure HIV, it allows people with HIV to live long and healthy lives and reduces the risk of transmission.

This bill seeks to provide access to ART for children ages 15 years old and above who are afflicted with HIV/AIDS even without the consent of their parents. To lower the transmission rate and in save the Filipino children from the alarming epidemic, the passage of the bills is earnestly sought for.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Padiernos".

**ATTY. JAN RURIK PADIERNOS**  
GP (Galing sa Puso) Party-List

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**AN ACT**  
**PROVIDING ACCESS TO ANTI-RETROVIRAL THERAPY (ART) TO CHILDREN**  
**AGES ABOVE 15 YEARS OLD, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE THE REPUBLIC**  
**ACT NO. 11166, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS PHILIPPINE HIV AND AIDS POLICY**  
**ACT, AS AMENDED**

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

**SECTION 1.** A new Section 34 is hereby inserted to Republic Act No. 11166 to read as follows:

**“SEC. 34. *Access to Medical Services by Children.*** – Children ages fifteen (15) years old and above who are diagnosed with HIV shall be allowed access to anti-retroviral therapy (ART) and other HIV/AIDS-related medical services: *Provided*, that such child is capable to understand the benefits and consequences of the said treatment.

**SEC. 2.** The subsequent provisions of Republic Act No. 11166 shall be renumbered accordingly.

**SEC. 3.** Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity, the Department of Health shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

**SEC. 4.** All other laws, executive orders, presidential decrees, administrative orders, rules and regulations, issuances, or parts thereof inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, and modified accordingly.

**SEC. 5.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from its publication in the Official Gazette or in any newspaper of general circulations.

Approved,