Honorable Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Nineteenth Northern Marianas  
Commonwealth Legislature  
Saipan, MP 96950  

Honorable Victor B. Hocog  
Senate President, The Senate  
Nineteenth Northern Marianas  
Commonwealth Legislature  
Saipan, MP 96950  

Dear Mr. Speaker and Mr. President:

This is to inform you that I have signed into law House Bill No. 19-101, HD1, entitled, “To appropriate Nine Hundred Seventy Thousand Dollars ($970,000.00) from the Cancer Fund Special Account, earmarked under 4 CMC §1402(g)(2), to support the programs of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation, Medical Referral Services; and for other purposes.”, which was passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Nineteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

This bill becomes Public Law No. 19-16. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

RALPH DLG. TORRES  
Acting Governor  

cc: Governor; Attorney General’s Office; Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation; CNMI Medical Referral Office; CNMI Medicaid Agency; Commonwealth Cancer Association; Public Auditor; Special Assistant for Administration; Special Assistant for Programs and Legislative Review
Representative Angel A. Demapan, of Saipan, Precinct 1 (for himself; Representatives Edwin P. Aldan, Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, George N. Camacho, Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero, and Felicidad T. Ogumoro) in an open and public meeting with an opportunity for the public to comment, introduced the following Bill:

H. B. No. 19-101, HD1

AN ACT

TO APPROPRIATE NINE HUNDRED SEVENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS ($970,000.00) FROM THE CANCER FUND SPECIAL ACCOUNT, EARMARKED UNDER 4 CMC §1402(6)(2), TO SUPPORT THE PROGRAMS OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION, MEDICAL REFERRAL SERVICES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Bill was not referred to a House Committee.

THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON FIRST AND FINAL READING, SEPTEMBER 28, 2015; with amendments in the form of H. B. 19-101, HD1 and transmitted to the

THE SENATE.

The Bill was not referred to a Senate Committee.

THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE SENATE ON FIRST AND FINAL READING, OCTOBER 9, 2015; without amendments.


THE BILL WAS FINALLY PASSED ON SEPTEMBER 28, 2015.

Linda B. Muña, House Clerk
H. B. No. 19-101, HD1

AN ACT

TO APPROPRIATE NINE HUNDRED SEVENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS ($970,000.00) FROM THE CANCER FUND SPECIAL ACCOUNT, EARMARKED UNDER 4 CMC §1402(G)(2), TO SUPPORT THE PROGRAMS OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION, MEDICAL REFERRAL SERVICES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Be it enacted by the Nineteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature:

Section 1. Findings and Purpose. The Legislature finds that programs under the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC) and the CNMI Medical Referral Services office require funding for the provision of patient directed services, prevention care, treatment, diagnosis as well as other services required to access treatment not readily available within the Commonwealth.

The purpose of this Act is to appropriate Nine Hundred Seventy Thousand dollars ($970,000.00) from the Cancer Fund Special Account, earmarked under 4 CMC §1402 (g) (2), to support the programs of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation and the CNMI Medical Referral Services.
Section 2. Appropriation. Notwithstanding any laws, statutes, provisions or regulations to the contrary, Nine Hundred Seventy Thousand dollars ($970,000.00) from funds earmarked to the Cancer Fund Special Account is hereby appropriated as follows:

(a) One Hundred Fifty Thousand dollars ($150,000.00) to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation for the Division of Public Health Services’ Oral Health Program. The Chief Executive Officer of the CHCC shall be the expenditure authority for the funds appropriated under this section.

(b) Two Hundred Fifty Thousand dollars ($250,000.00) to the CNMI Medical Referral Services for stipends of patients and escorts on medical referrals outside of the Commonwealth. Provided that the stipends intended in this Act be in United States currency at Twenty US Dollars ($20.00) per day per outpatient and escort. The Medical Referral Director shall be the expenditure authority of the funds appropriated under this section.

(c) Twenty Thousand dollars ($20,000.00) to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC) for the Inter-Island Medical Referral Program. The CEO of the CHCC shall be the expenditure authority of the funds appropriated under this section.

(d) One Hundred Thousand dollars ($100,000.00) to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC) for a Community Drug Free Rehabilitation Program under the Community Guidance Center. The CEO of the CHCC shall be the expenditure authority for the appropriated funds under this section.

(e) Two Hundred Fifty Thousand dollars ($250,000.00) to the CNMI Medicaid Agency for matching funds for the following two initiatives:

   (i) Improve the processing of Medicaid claims, establish a Medicaid Claims Data Repository, thereby improving the analysis and reporting of Medicaid claims date and;

   (ii) Establish Health Information Technology (HIT) and Health Information Exchange (HIE), which will enable Medicaid healthcare providers to meet Meaningful Use (MU) standards for the Electronic Health
Record (EHR) Incentive Program established under the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act of 2009.

(f) Two Hundred Thousand dollars ($200,000.00) to the Commonwealth Cancer Association.

Section 3. Reprogramming. Notwithstanding any laws, provisions or regulations to the contrary, funds appropriated under this Act shall not be reprogrammed for any other purpose.

Section 4. Severability. If any provisions of this Act or the application of any such provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its provisions to persons or circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid shall not be affected thereby.

Section 5. Savings Clause. This Act and any repealer contained herein shall not be construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired under statutes repealed or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted under the statutes. Repealers contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding instituted under or pursuant to prior law. The enactment of the Act shall not have the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying, any liability, civil or criminal, which shall already be in existence on the date this Act becomes effective.
Section 6. Effective Date. This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the Governor, or its becoming law without such approval.

Attested to by: Linda B. Muña, House Clerk

Certified by: SPEAKER JOSEPH P. DELEON GUERRERO
House of Representatives
19th Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature

Approved this 3rd day of November, 2015

RALPH D.L.G. TORRES
Acting Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands