



SENATOR DENNIS G. RODRIGUEZ, JR.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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“Creation of Urgent Care Outpatient Medical Center at GMH”

Tamuning, Guam. Senator Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr., introduced BILL NO. 158 -31 (COR); AN ACT TO ESTABLISH AN URGENT CARE CENTER FOR OUTPATIENT MEDICAL SERVICES WITHIN THE GUAM MEMORIAL HOSPITAL PREMISES TO ALLEVIATE CONGESTION AND COSTS IN THE EMERGENCY ROOM.

The disproportionately high percentage of services being provided by the GMHA emergency room are dedicated to non-emergency medical concerns. *“These non-emergency medical services are extremely costly to provide within the setting of an emergency room, and should more appropriately be made available through a private medical clinic, or, by way of an Urgent Care Outpatient Medical Center. This is my solution.”* Senator Rodriguez said *“Our government is mandated pursuant to the Organic Act of Guam to provide medical care services for the people of Guam, regardless of a patient’s ability to pay or availability of medical insurance coverage. Though we must provide these essential services, it does not make any sense whatsoever to continue providing them via an emergency room essentially serving as a doctor’s clinic. Our costs can be significantly reduced by establishing an urgent care center to address the non-emergency medical needs of patients currently availing themselves of GMHA’s emergency room services and resources.”* The senator added.

The intent of Bill 158-31 is threefold: 1) to alleviate the current strain being imposed upon the GMHA emergency room; 2) reduce the needless and exorbitant costs straining GMHA’s limited finances; and 3) provide what is really needed and being sought by the majority of emergency room patients – an urgent care outpatient medical center to address their everyday, non-emergency medical needs.

“This will be a “full-service medical clinic” with all the resources found in a large doctor’s clinic. Our people, especially the uninsured and those suffering financial difficulties, will receive the care they need within the urgent care outpatient center. And, should it be determined that more intensive medical care is required, then they are already within the GMHA grounds.” The senator stated.

For more information, please contact the Office of Senator Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr. at 649-8638.

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