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Win-win solution urged on generics bill

Councilor Victor "Jun" Ferrer of the First District of Quezon City, yesterday offered a win-win solution to the messy debate on the Generics Only provision in the Cheaper Medicines Bill.

There has been an ongoing debate on the Cheaper Medicines bill with both Houses of Congress coming up with different versions of the bill.

The Senate bill requires doctors to prescribe both the brand name and the generic name of a medicine while the version of the House of Representatives allows the prescription of a generic name only, which means that doctors will no longer be permitted to name a brand of medicine and prescribe it to their patients.

The version of the Lower House prompted the 80,000-strong Philippine Medical Association to threaten to hold a hospital holiday if the Lower House version will be enacted as law.

"The price is the basic consideration for most people since a large number of our constituents are poor, hence they should be given the option to choose what medicine brand they could

afford. On the other hand, some doctors feel that the case of each patient is different from the next

and so, will require a different brand of medicine. So this idea might be worth a try," he pointed out.

Generic Medicine