

SENATE OF PAKISTAN
House of the Federation



**REPORT OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES, REGULATIONS AND
COORDINATION**

ON

**THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH (RE-ORGANIZATION)
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2024 INTRODUCED BY SENATOR SALEEM
MANDVIWALLA, IN THE SENATE SITTING HELD ON 4TH
NOVEMBER, 2024**

PRESENTED BY

Senator Amir Waliuddin Chishti
Chairman
**Senate Standing Committee on National Health Services,
Regulations and Coordination**

SENATE SECRETARIAT

Subject: REPORT OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES, REGULATIONS AND COORDINATION ON THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH (RE-ORGANIZATION) (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2024 INTRODUCED BY SENATOR SALEEM MANDVIWALLA, IN THE SENATE SITTING HELD ON 4TH NOVEMBER, 2024

1, Senator Amir Waliuddin Chishti, Chairman Standing Committee on National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination have the honor to present, on behalf of Committee, this report on a Private Member's Bill titled "The National Institute of Health (Re-organization) (Amendment) Bill, 2024" introduced by Senator Saleem Mandviwalla, in the Senate sitting held on 4th November, 2024 and referred to the Committee for consideration and report.

2. The composition of the Committee is as under:-

1.	Senator Amir Waliuddin Chishti	Chairman
2.	Senator Abdul Qudoos	Member
3.	Senator Palwasha Mohammed Zai Khan	Member
4.	Senator Syed Masroor Ahsan	Member
5.	Senator Liaqat Khan Tarakai	Member
6.	Senator Mohammad Humayun Mohmand	Member
7.	Senator Irfan-ul-Haque Siddiqui	Member
8.	Senator Muhammad Abdul Qadir	Member
9.	Senator Ahmed Khan	Member
10.	Senator Fawzia Arshad	Member
11.	Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination	Ex-officio Member

3. The Committee took up the matter in its meetings held on 12th December, 2024 and 24th April, 2025. However, the meeting held on 24th April, 2025 which was attended by the following Members along with the mover:

1.	Senator Irfan-ul-Haque Siddiqui	Member
2.	Senator Masroor Ahsan	Member
3.	Senator Muhammad Humayun Mohmand	Member
4.	Senator Muhammad Abdul Qadir	Member
6.	Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination	Ex-officio Member

4. Senator Saleem Mandviwalla introduced the Bill explaining that there are currently no registries of diseases in Pakistan, which hampers effective disease monitoring and response. No one in Pakistan has any idea, neither the provinces nor the federal government, about spread of various types of cancers. The lack of centralized data makes it difficult to track the spread of different types of cancers in Pakistan. While the Government of Punjab has some data, other provinces including Sindh, KPK, and Balochistan lack any records. The Senator emphasized the need for a national registry similar to the COVID-19 data tracking system.

5. The Minister for National Health Services supported the Bill, stating there is no centralized health data because medical records (MR) are not centralized. For example, a person from Lahore visiting a hospital in Karachi would not have their medical history accessible. He proposed a solution where the National Identity Card (ID) number would be used as a medical record number (MR). Since ID data is already available with NADRA, this would allow health data to be accessible nationwide. The Minister further stated that hospitals



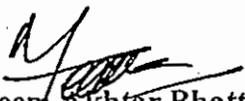
already have patient data, and once the MR system is implemented, the medical history of any patient will be available and also accessible to the decision-makers.

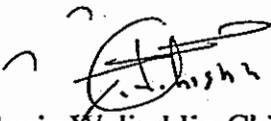
6. Senator Mohammad Hymayun Mohmand highlighted the importance of centralized data in the medical field, citing the successful COVID-19 tracking system as an example. The Minister agreed, stating that the MR number system will enable proactive planning and preventive measures for various diseases.

7. In reply to a question raised by the Chairman Committee about the timeline for the project's first phase, the Minister confirmed that the project will be completed in three phases in a time span of three years. He told the Committee that an agreement in this respect with NADRA is expected to be signed shortly.

8. After detailed discussions, the Committee unanimously approved the Bill, aiming to establish a centralized disease registry system in Pakistan to improve disease tracking and public health planning.

9. The Committee also gave approval for presentation of this report to the House.


(Naeem Akhtar Bhatti)
Secretary Committee


(Senator Amir Waliuddin Chishti)
Chairman

[TO BE INTRODUCED IN THE SENATE]

A.

BILL

further to amend the National Institute of Health (Re-organization) Act 2021

WHEREAS It is expedient further to amend the National Institute of Health (Re-organization) Act 2021 (XIII of 2021) for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

It is hereby enacted as follows: -

1. **Short title and commencement.** - (1) This Act may be called the National Institute of Health (Re-organization) (Amendment) Act, 2024.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. **Amendment of section 16, Act XIII of 2021.** - The National Institute of Health (Re-organization) Act 2021 (XIII of 2021), in section 16, after sub-section (2), the following new sub-section shall be added namely:

“(2A) The center shall assure the registration of cancer patients in central repository, as a vital step to understand the actual burden of disease, and to implement a national action plan for cancer prevention, and management strategies to control the growing epidemic and to provide for matters ancillary thereto; to collect the report data on Cancer cases; to acquire, and form a data base including names and CNIC numbers of cancer patients from all over the country in the repository; in particular,-

- (a) to call any hospital or laboratory to provide data related to cancer patients in any form;
- (b) to analyze the data and have updated statistics;
- (c) to encourage and participate in the awareness regarding cancer even at the village and union council level;
- (d) to work with other Governmental and non-governmental agencies whose goal is eradication of cancer;
- (e) to co-operate with and assist the institutions having similar functions in the spirit of solidarity to achieve humanitarian objectives of those countries; and
- (f) also, to do such supplementary, incidental or consequential acts and things as are necessary or convenient for carrying out its functions.

For the purposes of this sub section "cancer" means:-

- (a) a neoplasm of human tissue;
- (b) in which cell multiplication is uncontrolled and progressive; and
- (c) that, if unchecked, may invade adjacent tissues or extend beyond its site of origin; and
- (d) that has the propensity to recur, either locally or remotely in the body; or
- (e) The Federal Minister of health may, by Gazette notice, declare a disease to be cancer for this sub-section.

(2B) The center shall cause the registry of cancer in the following categories namely,-

- (a) Confirmed cancer cases;
- (b) Deaths due to cancer;
- (c) Recoveries from cancer;
- (d) Hospitalized pendency of cancer; and
- (e) Cancer Demographic Information (age, gender, location).

(2C) The center shall cause collection of Data from the sources including,-

- (a) Hospital records;
- (b) Laboratory reports; and
- (c) Surveillance systems.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The incidence of cancer is rising globally at a remarkable rate. According to the global cancer Observatory, the total number of cases in Pakistan were 178,388 in 2020; and these figures were provided by the Punjab Cancer Registry which represents the population of Lahore and some parts of central Punjab. Considering the overall 220 million populations, these figures are severe underestimation of the true cancer burden in Pakistan. Unfortunately, several attempts at establishing a national cancer registry in the country have failed in the past. Resource limitations, including funds, manpower and infrastructure, and the lack of interest on the part of the governments are behind the failure of the establishment of a national cancer database. There is a dire need for establishing a national cancer registry to understand the actual burden of disease, and to implement a national action plan for cancer prevention, and management strategies to control the growing epidemic. The Bill is designed to achieve the aforesaid objects.

SENATOR SALEEM MANDVIWALLA
MEMBER-IN-CHARGE