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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 1053

RECEIVED BY

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY,
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED NEED FOR THE GOVERNMENT
TO SECURE THE HEALTH INSURANCE OF DISPLACED WORKERS DURING
THE INTERIM PERIOD OF FINDING NEW JOBS

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 18 states: The State affirms labor as a primary social economic force. It shall protect the rights of workers and promote their welfare;

WHEREAS, the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* in its 19 April 2009 issue reported that a labor group has called to extend the health insurance of those laid-off for another six months;

WHEREAS, the Partido ng Manggagawa (PM) reportedly expressed that extending the health insurance of those laid off to another six months will help secure the health needs of a worker's family during the time that these laid off workers are looking for new jobs;

WHEREAS, it was reported that there is an estimated 40,000 displaced workers due to the global financial crisis; most of those laid off come from the electronic manufacturing industry and the export products manufacturing industry;

WHEREAS, PM secretary-general Judy Ann Miranda allegedly said that it takes an average of 12 months before a worker finds another job, especially if the displaced worker has already surpassed the age-limit required for new jobs;

WHEREAS, according to Miranda, the termination of PhilHealth coverage will "undermine their health security, especially that of women and children";

WHEREAS, the labor group also alleged that the state is obligated to secure the health needs of all its citizens, whether employed or not, and that universal health care is a right that should not be treated as collateral damage due to job loss;

WHEREAS, it was reported however that PhilHealth offered special financing to members laid off from work;


WHEREAS, according to PhilHealth president and chief executive officer, Doctor Rey Aquino, employees could seek the help of their employers to pay the premium for at least one year until the worker could find a new job or be rehired;

WHEREAS, the State should devise measures that will secure the health care of displaced workers that will help them during the transition period of looking for new jobs;

WHEREAS, employers should be obligated to secure health care for its laid off workers, covering at least a six-month transition period;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the proper Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation, on the reported need for the government to secure the health insurance of displaced workers during the interim period of finding new jobs.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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