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SENATE

P. S. RES. NO. 435

RECEIVED BY: *jc*

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Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV

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**RESOLUTION**

**URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT CORPORATIONS, SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND DEMOGRAPHY, AND OTHER APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF THE SENATE, TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE PLANNED INCREASE IN THE MONTHLY CONTRIBUTIONS OF MEMBERS OF THE PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORP. (PHILHEALTH), EFFECTIVE JANUARY 2014, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF DETERMINING WHETHER SAID INCREASE IS REASONABLE OR NOT, AND RECOMMENDING POSSIBLE POLICY MEASURES TO EASE THE BURDEN OF SAID INCREASE, IN ORDER TO PROVIDE AN AFFORDABLE HEALTHCARE TO ALL FILIPINOS**

**WHEREAS**, Article XII Section 11 provides that *"the State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost. There shall be priority for the needs of the under-privileged, sick, elderly, disabled, women, and children. The State shall endeavor to provide free medical care to paupers;"*

**WHEREAS**, in cognizance of the above Constitutional mandate, Republic Act No. 7875 created the Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PhilHealth) and instituted the National Health Insurance Program, and thereafter said law was amended by Republic Act No. 10606 to provide mandatory healthcare for all Filipinos, including the indigent and abandoned children, with the national government subsidizing their premium contributions;

**WHEREAS**, starting this January 2013, PhilHealth, through Circular No. 27 Series of 2013 shall mandate the implementation of new PhilHealth Contribution Table 2014 for its voluntary/individually-paying, employed, OFWs and sponsored members; and that aforesaid contribution table was made possible by requiring an increase in its members' premium contribution;

**WHEREAS**, PhilHealth Board Resolution No. 1571 Series of 2011 sanctioned the increase in the member premium contribution. However, due to public resistance, the implementation was halted last year. Board Resolution No. 1842 series of 2013, nevertheless, empowers the agency to implement the increase in 2014.<sup>1</sup>

**WHEREAS**, aforementioned PhilHealth Circular No 27 series of 2013 provides that the new premium rates for the employed sector will be at 2.5% of their salary. Salary bracket floor shall start at Php 8,000 and pegged at 35,000.<sup>2</sup>

**WHEREAS**, the adjustments mean that the monthly contribution of a member with a monthly salary of P8,999 and below, shall be P200, with half of the amount to be shouldered by the

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<sup>1</sup> 2014 PhilHealth Premium Contribution Table. Information retrieved from <http://anyare.com/2014-philhealth-premium-contribution-table/>.

<sup>2</sup> PhilHealth Premium Contribution Rate Table for 2014. Information retrieved from <http://scoopboy.com/philhealth-premium-contribution-rate-table-2014/#>.

employer. The monthly contribution of a member with a salary of at least P35,000 shall be P875, with half of the amount to be shouldered by the employer.<sup>3</sup>

**WHEREAS**, albeit the Palace clarifies that the hike in the contributions is necessary to ensure a sustainable "social protection program" for those who need the assistance of the government, and that under the new PhilHealth contributions scheme, the premium hike will not affect the "sponsored" members or the 4 million families being subsidized by the government's conditional cash transfer program – otherwise known as the *Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program*, said increase will, however, pose a huge financial burden to employees, individually paying members and overseas Filipino workers<sup>4</sup> who are not accorded with a corresponding wage increase, and employers who are up against incessant power rate hikes and increase in the rates of other required insurance contributions;

**WHEREAS**, there is a persistent public resistance against the impending rate hike, alleging that there was a lack of consultation/dialogue with the members of the PhilHealth;

**WHEREAS**, it is incumbent upon the Senate, through the Senate Committee on Government Corporations, Senate Committee on Health and Demography, and other appropriate Committees of the Senate, to safeguard the right of the people to affordable healthcare, especially at a time when the country is still reeling from a chain of natural and man-made devastations;

**WHEREAS**, further, it is incumbent upon the Senate, through the Senate Committee on Government Corporations, Senate Committee on Health and Demography, and other relevant Committees of the Senate, to review the status of the National Health Insurance Fund, the reason for the increase in PhilHealth premium contributions, and to determine whether the new payment schedule/premium hike is reasonable or not;

**NOW, THEREFOR, BE IT RESOLVED**, *as it is hereby resolved* by the Philippine Senate to direct the Committee on Government Corporations, Committee on Health and Demography, and other appropriate committees of the Senate, to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the planned increase in the monthly contributions of members of the Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PhilHealth), effective January 2014, with the end in view of determining whether said increase is reasonable or not, and recommending possible policy measures to ease the burden of said increase, in order to provide an affordable healthcare to all Filipinos.

*Adopted,*

  
ANTONIO "SONNY" F. TRILLANES IV  
*Senator*

<sup>3</sup> Ana Roa. *In the Know: SSS, PhilHealth hikes take effect January*. Information retrieved from <http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/558311/in-the-know-sss-philhealth-hikes-take-effect-january#ixzz2phlmaoGW>

<sup>4</sup> *Palace defends SSS, Philhealth contributions hike anew*. Information retrieved from <http://www.rappler.com/business/economy-watch/47257-palace-defends-sss-philhealth-contributions-hike-anew>