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SENATE
P.S. Res 624

RECEIVED BY: *ji*

Introduced by Senator Poe

RESOLUTION

URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND DEMOGRAPHY TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, REGARDING THE STATUS OF PREVENTIVE HEALTH CARE IN THE COUNTRY, WITH THE PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORP.'S (PHILHEALTH) "TAMANG SERBISYO PARA SA KALUSUGAN NG PAMILYA" (TSEKAP) PROGRAM AS BACKDROP, AIMED AT UTILIZING THE SAID PROGRAM AS A MODEL FOR PREVENTIVE HEALTH CARE, AND FURTHER STUDYING THE FEASIBILITY OF INSTITUTIONALIZING ITS IMPLEMENTATION AT THE GRASSROOTS LEVEL, IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS

WHEREAS, the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides, "The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them"¹;

WHEREAS, it has been reported that the Philippines' public healthcare system continues to be hounded by huge challenges including the lack of health personnel, absence of adequate facilities and the remaining barriers to the poor's access to health care, among others.²

WHEREAS, only four (4) out of the seventeen (17) regions in the country are able to comply with acceptable hospital bed to population ratio, based on the 2012 Philippines Health Service Delivery Profile brought about by the joint effort between the Department of Health (DOH) and the World Health Organization (WHO).³

¹ Article II, Section 15, Declaration of State Policies and Principles, 1987 Philippine Constitution

² <http://www.rappler.com/nation/special-coverage/sona/2013/34446-public-healthcare-philippines>

³ *Ibid.*

WHEREAS, the Alliance of Health Workers reported that only 17,000, out of the country's 42,000 barangays, have health centers⁴ to cater to the need of our countrymen.

WHEREAS, it is clear from the foregoing that there is a necessity for further increase of funding for public health care system, specifically in the treatment phase of illnesses and diseases.

WHEREAS, considering the foregoing challenges as of the moment with regard to the country's public health care system and its capability for rendering effective and efficient cure or treatment to our less fortunate countrymen afflicted with diseases/illnesses, it is high time that we institutionalize primary care services in the country and give some focus on "preventive and promotive" health care services.

WHEREAS, "preventive health care" consists of measures focused on disease prevention rather than disease treatment.⁵ It is defined as "the science and art of preventing disease, prolonging life, and promoting physical and mental health and efficiency."⁶

WHEREAS, a good example of preventive health care program is the Philippine Health Insurance Corp.'s (PhilHealth) program called "*Tamang Serbisyo Para sa Kalusugan ng Pamilya*" (*Tsekap*). PhilHealth aims to provide 14.7 million poor families free and easy access to basic health care services even without an illness.⁷ The services included in PhilHealth's Tsekap program include blood pressure monitoring, breast feeding counseling, awareness campaign regarding healthy lifestyles, cervical and breast cancer screening, diagnostic tests, among others.⁸

WHEREAS, it is the aim of this resolution to take a look at PhilHealth's Tsekap program; and assess, evaluate and study the possibility of institutionalizing said preventive health care program and/or measures and implementing it at the grassroots in at least the municipal or city level.

WHEREAS, the institutionalization of preventive healthcare will go hand in hand with our efforts in improving the country's public health care system insofar as preventive health care will not just prevent and detect diseases and

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Preventive_healthcare

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ Jocelyn R. Uy's "PhilHealth services made available to healthy poor" published in the Philippine Daily Inquirer on 24 March 2014.

⁸ *Ibid.*

illnesses that may afflict our countrymen, but it will also educate our countrymen as to proper or healthy lifestyles. As we continue with our efforts to enhance our capability to provide free cure and treatment to the poor afflicted with diseases and illnesses, preventive health care will safeguard our countrymen from acquiring diseases and illnesses in the first place.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to urge the Senate Committee on Health and Demography to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, regarding the status of preventive health care in the country, and to take a look at the Philippine Health Insurance Corp.'s (PhilHealth) "*Tamang Serbisyo Para sa Kalusugan ng Pamilya*" (*Tsekap*) program, with an aim to utilize said program as a model for preventive health care, and further studying the possibility of institutionalizing its implementation at the grassroots level at least in the municipalities and cities.

Adopted,


GRACE POE