

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Third Regular Session )



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SENATE  
P. S. R. No. 1423

RECEIVED BY: J

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION  
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE  
TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION,  
ON THE REPORT THAT ONE MILLION SENIOR CITIZENS  
HAVE NO PHILHEALTH COVERAGE

1 WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 15 provides: "The State shall protect and  
2 promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them";

3 WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 7432, as amended, Section 5, sub-paragraph h(2) states:

4 All senior citizens shall be covered by the national health insurance  
5 program of PhilHealth. Funds necessary to ensure the enrollment of all senior  
6 citizens not currently covered by any existing category shall be sourced from the  
7 National Health Insurance Fund of PhilHealth from proceeds of Republic Act No.  
8 10351, in accordance with the pertinent laws and regulations.

9 WHEREAS, the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* on 13 June 2015 reported that some one  
10 million Filipino senior citizens have yet to enlist with the Philippine Health Insurance Corp.  
11 (PhilHealth), which has been mandated by law to provide healthcare coverage to all Filipinos  
12 aged 60 and above;

13 WHEREAS, quoting a ranking Philhealth official, the *Inquirer* said that only 2.4 million  
14 senior citizens in the country have existing PhilHealth coverage, either as lifetime or employed  
15 members, even as latest records from Philippine Statistics Authority show there are 7.6 million  
16 Filipino senior citizens;

17 WHEREAS, an additional 4.2 million senior citizens have allegedly been enrolled for  
18 healthcare coverage through the Office of Senior Citizens Affairs (Osca) in their respective local  
19 government units (LGUs) as of April 2015;

20 WHEREAS, the new enrollees bring to 6.6 million the total number of senior citizens  
21 covered by the state-run health insurance firm, therefore leaving one million senior citizens  
22 without health insurance;

1           WHEREAS, senior citizens not yet covered by Philhealth could purportedly still avail of  
2 benefits by merely presenting their senior citizen cards or any document that would prove they  
3 are 60 years old or above;

4           WHEREAS, it is incumbent upon the government to not only allot funds for the delivery  
5 of much-needed social services but to ensure as well maximum access to such services,  
6 especially healthcare;

7           WHEREAS, Congress, in consultation with Philhealth, the Department of Health, the  
8 Department of Social Welfare and Development, and other relevant agencies, must determine the  
9 need for legislation to improve senior citizen access to social services;

10           WHEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE to direct  
11 the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the report that one  
12 million senior citizens have no PhilHealth coverage.

Adopted,

  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO  
RP

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