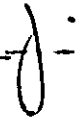


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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 1705

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORT THAT THE COMMISSION ON AUDIT HAS ORDERED THE PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION TO REFUND TO ITS MEMBERS ₱325 MILLION IN UNCLAIMED BENEFITS

1 WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 27, provides:

2 Section 27. The State shall maintain honesty and integrity in the public
3 service and take positive and effective measures against graft and corruption.

4 WHEREAS, *GMA News Online* on 16 December 2015 reported that the Commission on
5 Audit (COA) has tasked the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) to
6 immediately refund the unclaimed health benefits of its members totalling ₱325.214 million;

7 WHEREAS, the state auditors claimed in an annual report published on its website that
8 member-claimants were deprived of the full health benefits due them because unclaimed health
9 benefits returned by various Institutional Health Care Providers (IHCPs) in the amount of
10 ₱325.214 million as of 31 December 2014 remained in the custody of PhilHealth;

11 WHEREAS, the COA reportedly recommended the immediate refund of the unclaimed
12 benefits to the members, and urged the PhilHealth to create a special team that will ensure that
13 the completion of the refund process be time-bound;

14 WHEREAS, the state auditors claimed that the "unclaimed benefits" accrued prior to
15 implementing the "All Case Rate Program" in 2014, as the PhilHealth paid IHCPs more than
16 what the amount deducted from the medical bills incurred by PhilHealth members;

17 WHEREAS, the COA allegedly said that the amounts must be returned to claimants
18 through a Notice of Benefit Payments (NBP), which the claimants can present to any PhilHealth
19 office as a requirement for the refund;

20 WHEREAS, as of 31 December 2014, at least 266 IHCPs have reportedly returned a total
21 of ₱322.286 million of unclaimed health benefits, yet the COA charged that the PhilHealth has
22 exerted minimal effort to refund its members;


1 WHEREAS, state auditors claimed that the PhilHealth only managed to issue a refund of
2 ₱365 out of the ₱89.355 million remitted by the IHCPs in 2014, ₱150,620 out of the ₱121.2
3 million remitted in 2013, and ₱109,917 out of the ₱66.417 million remitted in 2012;

4 WHEREAS, the Congress, through relevant legislation, should facilitate the distribution
5 of funds earmarked for refund in any government agency;

6 WHEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE to direct
7 the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the report that the
8 Commission on Audit has ordered the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation to refund to its
9 members ₱325 million in unclaimed benefits.

Adopted,

/clr 16Dec2015


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
RP