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SENATE

P. S. Res. No. 358

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Introduced by **SENATOR LEILA M. DE LIMA**

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**RESOLUTION  
CALLING ON THE SENATE TO CONVENE THE CONGRESSIONAL  
COMMISSION ON HEALTH PURSUANT TO REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7305,  
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "MAGNA CARTA OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
WORKERS"**

1           WHEREAS, Article II, Section 15 of the 1987 Constitution states in part that,  
2           "[t]he State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people";

3           WHEREAS, Section 18 also provides that "[t]he State affirms labor as a primary  
4           social economic force. It shall protect the rights of workers and promote their welfare";

5           WHEREAS, Article XIII, Section 12 of the same emphasizes the State obligation  
6           "to establish and maintain... and undertake appropriate health manpower  
7           development and research, responsive to the country's health needs and problems";

8           WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 7305, or the Magna Carta of Public Health  
9           Workers, was signed into law in 1992 to promote the social and economic well-being  
10          of health workers;

11          WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 11223, or the Universal Health Care Act, also  
12          mandates that all health professionals and health care workers shall be guaranteed  
13          permanent employment and competitive salaries;

14          WHEREAS, under the R.A. No. 7305, public health workers (PHWs) are  
15          entitled to subsistence allowance, laundry allowance, longevity pay, hazard pay, night  
16          shift differential, free living quarters or quarters allowance, remote assignment  
17          allowance for doctors, dentists, nurses and midwives, free compulsory medical

1 by the Secretary of Health in consultation with Department of Budget and  
2 Management and the Congressional Commission on Health (HEALTHCOM);

3 WHEREAS, HEALTHCOM is created to “conduct a periodic health human  
4 resource development/management study into, among others, upgrading of working  
5 conditions, reclassification of positions and salaries of public health workers to correct  
6 disparity vis-a-vis other professions” and such review shall be taken once every five (5)  
7 years;

8 WHEREAS, twenty eight years since the enactment of Magna Carta,  
9 implementation of the law has been generally weak and our PHWs still remain  
10 undervalued but overutilized;

11 WHEREAS, the inconsistencies and discrepancies in the payment of benefits  
12 prescribed in R.A. 7305 has also sown discontent to PHWs rather than empowerment;

13 WHEREAS, in the advent of COVID-19 outbreak and in anticipation of future  
14 virus contagions, Congress must ensure that health workers, our frontliners, are given  
15 well-deserved benefits and incentives to ensure delivery of quality and effective health  
16 care services to the public;

17 WHEREAS, there is an urgent need for HEALTHCOM to convene and to revisit  
18 the law and the revised Implementing Rules and Regulations to determine what  
19 provisions need to be amended in order to plug the loopholes and to bridge the  
20 statutory gaps;

21 **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY**  
22 **RESOLVED**, to call on the Senate to convene the Congressional Commission on  
23 Health pursuant to Republic Act No. 7305, otherwise known as the “Magna Carta of  
24 Public Health Workers”, with the end in view of instituting reforms in the law for its  
25 effective, fair and proper implementation.

*Adopted,*

  
LEILA M. DE LIMA