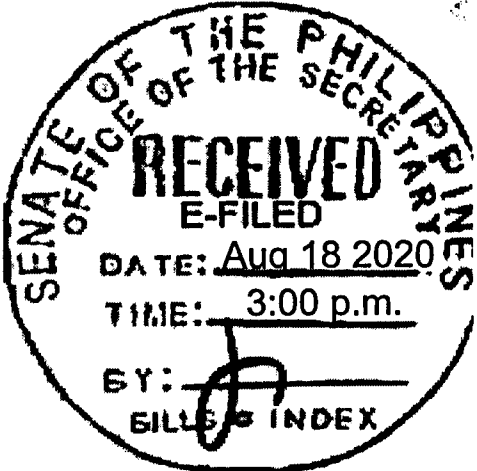


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Second Regular Session )



SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 500

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Introduced by SENATOR RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

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**RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE/S TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11223, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE ACT IN VIEW OF THE CURRENT HEALTH CRISIS THAT THE COUNTRY IS FACING**

1 WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 11223, otherwise known as the Universal  
2 Health Care (UHC) Act was enacted in February 2019 which aims to protect and  
3 promote Filipinos' right to health by automatically enrolling all Filipinos in the  
4 government's health insurance program;

5 WHEREAS, among the general objectives of the UHC Act is to progressively  
6 realize universal health care in the country through a systemic approach;

7 WHEREAS, the UHC Act not only provided for universal coverage in the  
8 National Health Insurance Program but it also provided for a number of other  
9 approaches towards efficient and equitable delivery of health care in the country;

10 WHEREAS, the establishment of a National Health Human Resource Master  
11 Plan is one of the major provisions of the Act, which will "provide policies and  
12 strategies for the appropriate generation, recruitment, retraining, regulation, retention  
13 and reassessment of health workforce<sup>1</sup>";

14 WHEREAS, the Act also transformed the then Health Promotion and  
15 Communication Service into a full-pledged Bureau named as the Health Promotion  
16 Bureau to "improve health literacy and mainstream health promotion and protection."  
17 This Bureau will be tasked to "formulate a framework strategy for health promotion

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<sup>1</sup> Sec. 23 of Republic Act No. 11223

1 which shall serve as the basis for DOH Programs in increasing health literacy with  
2 focus on reducing non-communicable diseases, implement population-wide health  
3 promotion programs and activities across social determinants of health....<sup>2</sup>”;

4 WHEREAS, the Act provided for the creation of a Health Technology  
5 Assessment Council which “shall conduct the Health Technology Assessment in  
6 accordance with the principles, criteria and procedures of this Act and ensure that its  
7 process is transparent, conducted with reasonable promptness and the result of its  
8 deliberations is made publicly<sup>3</sup>.”;

9 WHEREAS, the Act also institutionalized the Integration of Local Health  
10 Systems into Province-wide and City-wide Health Systems which can address the  
11 problem of inadequate access to health services due to lack of funds of certain  
12 barangays and municipalities. For this, the Act mandated the pool and management  
13 of a Special Health Fund.;

14 WHEREAS, the enumerated are some of the major provisions of the UHC Act  
15 which supports the systemic approach to an efficient and equitable provision of  
16 universal health care in the country;

17 WHEREAS, six (6) months before two (2) years upon the effectivity of the Act,  
18 we have yet to see how the Act has been implemented. Two (2) years has been set  
19 by the Act as transition period into the full implementation of the Act.;

20 WHEREAS, the global pandemic of COVID-19 has emphasized the need for a  
21 quality, accessible, affordable and equitable health care system:

22 WHEREAS, it becomes imperative to inquire into the appropriate agencies of  
23 the government on the status of their preparations into the full implementation of the  
24 UHC Act to ensure that we are not falling behind;

25 WHEREAS, the President and CEO of the Philippine Health Insurance  
26 Corporation, BGen. Ricardo Morales (Ret.). has been reported to seek the delayed  
27 implementation of the UHC Act due to the depleting budget of the Corporation<sup>4</sup>;

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<sup>2</sup> Sec. 30 of Republic Act no 11223

<sup>3</sup> Sec 34 (c) of Republic Act no 11223

<sup>4</sup> June 16, 2020. [Philhealth: Delay implementation of the UHC Act, expansion of primary health care benefits.](https://mb.com.ph/2020/06/16/philhealth-delay-implementation-of-uhc-act-expansion-of-primary-health-care-benefits/)  
Accessed: <https://mb.com.ph/2020/06/16/philhealth-delay-implementation-of-uhc-act-expansion-of-primary-health-care-benefits/>

June 16, 2020. [PhilHealth wants delayed implementation of Universal Healthcare Law over low collections.](https://www.cnn.ph/news/2020/6/16/philhealth-recommends-delayed-universal-healthcare-law.html)  
Accessed: <https://www.cnn.ph/news/2020/6/16/philhealth-recommends-delayed-universal-healthcare-law.html>

1           WHEREAS, the implementation of the provisions of such a landmark  
2 legislation as the Universal Health Care Act should not be deferred especially now  
3 as we face a global pandemic: Now, Therefore be it

4           RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, as it is hereby resolved to direct the  
5 appropriate Senate Committee/s to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the  
6 implementation of Republic Act No. 11223, otherwise known as the Universal Health  
7 Care Act, in view of the current health crisis that the country is facing.

*Adopted.*

  
**RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.**