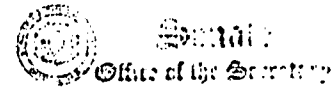
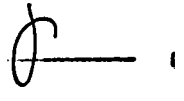


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



21 JAN 20 P 1 :48

SENATE
S. B. No. 2000

RECEIVED BY 

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR CHRISTOPHER LAWRENCE "BONG" T. GO

AN ACT
GRANTING THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES THE POWER TO SUSPEND
THE SCHEDULED INCREASES IN PHILHEALTH PREMIUM CONTRIBUTION
RATES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11223, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS THE UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE ACT

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), being the national health insurance provider, is mandated to provide health insurance coverage and ensure affordable, acceptable, available and accessible health care services for all citizens of the Philippines. It shall serve as the means for those who are healthy to help pay for the care of those who are sick and for those who can afford medical care to subsidize those who cannot.

Republic Act No. 11223 or the Universal Health Care (UHC) Act was enacted to ensure that our health care system will be more accessible and responsive in the coming years. Under the UHC Act, all Filipino citizens are automatically enrolled in the NHIP. For the provision to materialize, Section 10 of the Act also mandates an increase in membership premium by 0.5% yearly beginning 2021 until it reaches the 5% limit in 2025.

PhilHealth recently issued Circular No. 2020-005 which provides the schedule of increases in premium contribution to the NHIP pursuant to the UHC Act. This year, the premium rate will increase to 3.5% of the monthly basic salary of the direct contributor from just 3% in 2020.

Although the increase in PhilHealth membership contributions ensures sufficient funding for the health care of its members as mandated by the UHC Law, it is only reasonable and equitable to postpone incremental premiums due to the bad economic conditions caused by the pandemic. Even the President himself backed the call for the hike's deferment and was open to approving a budget augmentation to help keep the state insurer afloat. It is always the government's job to find ways to make it easy for the people.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

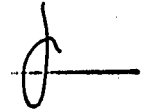


SENATOR CHRISTOPHER LAWRENCE "BONG" T. GO

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SENATE
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Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

1 **Section 1. Suspension of PhilHealth Premium Contribution Increase.** - Section 10
2 of Republic Act No. 11223, otherwise known as "Universal Health Care Act" is hereby
3 amended to read, as follows:

4 **SECTION 10. Premium Contributions.** - For direct contributors, premium rates
5 shall be in accordance with the following schedule, and monthly income floor and
6 ceiling:

Year	Premium Rate	Income Floor	Income Ceiling
2019	2.75%	₱10,000.00	₱50,000.00
2020	3.00 %	₱10,000.00	₱60,000.00
2021	3.50%	₱10,000.00	₱70,000.00
2022	4.00 %	₱10,000.00	₱80,000.00
2023	4.50 %	₱10,000.00	₱90,000.00

2024	5.00 %	₱10,000.00	₱100,000.00
2025	5.00 %	₱10,000.00	₱100,000.00

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Provided, that for indirect contributors, premium subsidy shall be gradually adjusted and included annually in the General Appropriations Act (GAA): Provided, further, That the funds shall be released to PhilHealth: Provided, furthermore; That the DOH, in coordination with PhilHealth, may request Congress to appropriate supplemental funding to meet targeted milestones of this Act: Provided, finally, that for every increase in the rate of contribution of direct contributors and premium subsidy of indirect contributors, PhilHealth shall provide for a corresponding increase in benefits.

IN THE EVENT OF A NATIONAL EMERGENCY OR PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY, THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES, UPON RECOMMENDATION OF THE PHILHEALTH BOARD, MAY SUSPEND THE INCREASE IN PREMIUM CONTRIBUTION PROVIDED UNDER THIS SECTION WHEN PUBLIC INTEREST SO REQUIRES. THE MANDATED INCREASE SHALL BE IMPLEMENTED ON THE YEAR FOLLOWING THE CESSATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY OR PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY. ALL SUCCEEDING INCREASES IN CONTRIBUTION SHALL BE IMPLEMENTED IN THE FOLLOWING YEARS ACCORDINGLY.

Section. 2. Continuity of Benefits. – Nothing in this Act shall be construed to eliminate or diminish any benefits or entitlements granted to members of PhilHealth.

Section. 3. Repealing Clause. – All laws, ordinances, rules, regulations, other issuances, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section. 4. Separability Clause. – If any provision or section of this Act is held to be unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions or sections hereof, which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

1 **Section. 5. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its
2 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation in the
3 Philippines.

4 Approved,

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