

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Third Regular Session )**



**SENATE**

**P.S. Res. No. 974**

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Introduced by Senator **SONNY ANGARA**

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**RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE STATE OF HEALTH FINANCING IN THE PHILIPPINES INCLUDING THE STATE OF HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE, HEALTH PERSONNEL, HEALTH INSURANCE AND THE LINKAGES BETWEEN LOCAL AND NATIONAL HEALTH INITIATIVES, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF DETERMINING THE NEEDED LEGISLATION TO STRENGTHEN THE COUNTRY'S HEALTHCARE SYSTEM**

1           WHEREAS, the country's healthcare system – along with its administrators,  
2 doctors, nurses, technicians, and allied medical professionals - has borne the brunt of  
3 the COVID-19 pandemic for close to two years now and has achieved major victories  
4 in curbing wave upon wave of this deadly disease at the cost of their own physical,  
5 mental, and emotional wellbeing;

6           WHEREAS, over the past few days, the country has experienced an exponential  
7 surge in the total number of new cases detected – from only 318 new cases on  
8 December 27, 2021 to 10,775 on January 5, 2022. In addition, on January 5, 2022,  
9 the country recorded a new high of 31.7% positivity rate which is significantly beyond  
10 the benchmark set by the World Health Organization (WHO) of 5%;

11           WHEREAS, in addition, the Department of Health (DOH) noted a high possibility  
12 that there is already community transmission of the newly detected Omicron variant  
13 of the virus especially since there have been increased relaxation of minimum public  
14 health standards due to the holiday season. The DOH further said that the number of  
15 cases could peak by the end of January;

16           WHEREAS, these new COVID-19 developments stress the need for a cohesive  
17 and prepared healthcare system which is hard to achieve since many of the country's  
18 private healthcare institutions have been struggling to continue its operations due to

1 the delay in payments or reimbursements from the Philippine Health Insurance  
2 Corporation (PhilHealth) – the state’s health insurance provider. In fact, last December  
3 27, 2021, the Private Hospitals Association of the Philippines, Inc. (PHAPI) called for  
4 a five-day “PhilHealth holiday” from January 1 to 5, 2022 in support of the hospitals,  
5 namely: Far Eastern University – Dr. Nicanor Reyes Medical Foundation (FEU-NRMF),  
6 Iloilo Doctors’ Hospital, Iloilo Mission Hospital, Medicus Medical Center, Metro Iloilo  
7 Hospital and Medical Center Inc., St. Paul’s Hospital of Iloilo, the Medical City-Iloilo  
8 and Qualimed Hospital-Iloilo who have ceased their engagement with the Corporation  
9 due to the millions in unpaid claims;

10 WHEREAS, PHAPI President Dr. Jose de Grano appealed to the 600 member  
11 hospitals to exercise this so-called “PhilHealth holiday” by not accepting claims for  
12 PhilHealth deductions for health services;

13 WHEREAS, the problem of unpaid claims has been a recurring conflict between  
14 PhilHealth and the healthcare institutions. As reported back in May 2021 by the  
15 Philippine Hospital Association (PHA), there were hospitals which were forced to “dig  
16 into their savings or borrow from the banks for their operating budget” due to delay  
17 in PhilHealth receivables ranging from P50 million to around P1.2 billion which greatly  
18 affects the manner in which these hospitals deliver services to their patients;

19 WHEREAS, back in August 2020, PHAPI already highlighted the problem of  
20 unpaid claims during the Senate Committee of the Whole (COW) hearing on PhilHealth  
21 to which the latter responded that they are currently finding means to ensure that the  
22 claims are fast-tracked and paid within the prescribed period of 60 days;

23 WHEREAS, in response to the call of a “PhilHealth holiday,” the Corporation  
24 issued a statement noting that this move would eventually lead to Filipinos suffering  
25 and that the Corporation has in fact fast-tracked the release of P11.64B for the  
26 payment of claims through the Debit Credit Payment Method (DCPM) – a mechanism  
27 wherein the Corporation provides a partial payment of 60% of the claims of hospitals  
28 while the remaining 40% will be disbursed “following full compliance to existing claims  
29 processing requirements and full reconciliation of the 60% of the total amount of  
30 applicable health care facility (HCF) receivables initially paid to the HCF”;

31 WHEREAS, another concern is on the state of the healthcare workers (HCWs)  
32 in the country who are experiencing what Filipino Nurses United (FNU) President

1 Maristela Abenojar called an “infectious low morale pandemic” due to demoralization  
2 from the lack of personnel support as well as the delayed release/non release of  
3 benefits and support even as DOH reported in November 2021 that it has already  
4 disbursed P15.7 billion worth of benefits to HCWs;

5 WHEREAS, considering that the Congress – through the Senate Committee on  
6 Finance and the House Committee on Appropriations – approves the budget and the  
7 subsidy support to DOH and PhilHealth respectively through the annual General  
8 Appropriations Act (GAA), it is only fitting that the Committee should conduct an  
9 inquiry in aid of legislation on how the Corporation handles its finances to pay for the  
10 services rendered by the healthcare institutions who are catering to the needs of the  
11 Filipinos;

12 WHEREAS, in determining the state of health financing in the country, the  
13 Committee would be able to determine how to improve and strengthen the cohesion  
14 between healthcare institutions and PhilHealth, and adapt mechanisms that would  
15 expedite health financing initiatives which – in turn – would greatly benefit the  
16 country’s healthcare infrastructure, personnel, coordination, and connectivity;

17 WHEREAS, in line with the full implementation of Republic Act No. 11223 or the  
18 Universal Healthcare (UHC) Act, there is also a need to look into the linkages between  
19 local and national health services – especially in line with the implementation of the  
20 Supreme Court (SC) ruling on the Mandanas-Garcia case – as well as public and private  
21 healthcare institutions post-COVID-19 scenario in order to fully equip and prepare the  
22 country’s healthcare system and avoid the depletion of supplies, equipment, services,  
23 and manpower should another health crisis occur in the future;

24 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the  
25 Senate of the Philippines, to direct the Senate Committee on Finance to conduct an  
26 inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the state of health financing in the Philippines including  
27 the state of health infrastructure, health personnel, health insurance and the linkages  
28 between local and national health initiatives, with the end in view of determining the  
29 needed legislation to strengthen the country’s healthcare system.

*Adopted,*



**SONNY ANGARA**