

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )



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SENATE  
P.S. Resolution No. 545

RECEIVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

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Introduced by **SENATOR IMEE R. MARCOS**

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**RESOLUTION**  
**DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN**  
**INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, TO REVIEW THE EXISTING LAWS,**  
**RULES AND REGULATIONS ON THE SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION OF**  
**PHILHEALTH ACCREDITATION OF PRIVATE AND**  
**PUBLIC HOSPITALS**

**WHEREAS**, Section 11, Article XIII of the 1987 Constitution provides that the State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost, that there shall be priority for the needs of the under-privileged, sick, elderly, disabled, women, and children and that the State shall endeavor to provide free medical care to paupers;

**WHEREAS**, to accomplish the abovementioned constitutional mandate, the State enacted Republic Act (RA) No. 7875, otherwise known as the "National Health Insurance Act of 1995", as amended, to provide comprehensive health care services to all Filipinos through a socialized health insurance program that will prioritize the health care needs of the underprivileged, sick, elderly, persons with disabilities women and children and provide free health care services to indigents;

**WHEREAS**, Section 16 of RA No. 7875, as amended, empowers the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) to supervise the provision of health benefits and to set standards, rules, and regulations necessary to ensure quality of care, appropriate utilization of services, fund viability, member satisfaction, and overall accomplishment of the National Health Care Insurance Program's objectives;

**WHEREAS**, in the exercise of its powers and functions, PhilHealth has already suspended and/or revoked the accreditation of several private and public hospitals due to alleged violation of pertinent provisions of RA No. 7875, as amended, such as involvement in the commission of fraudulent activities, breach of warranties of accreditation or performance commitment, filing of multiple claims, misrepresentation by furnishing false or incorrect information, and claiming for non-admitted patients, among others;

**WHEREAS**, in a news article dated 12 October 2019, it was reported that PhilHealth suspended and withdrew the accreditation of three Soccsksargen hospitals, namely, General Santos Doctors Hospital Inc., Dr. Arturo P. Pingoy Medical Center, and the Allah Valley Medical Specialists Center Inc. due to alleged fraud. Acting Regional Vice President of PhilHealth-Region 12 Dr. Antoniette Ladio, stated that *"as a policy, PhilHealth members and their eligible dependents are entitled to avail of benefits under the National Health Insurance Program only in health care providers accredited with PhilHealth. With the suspension and withdrawal of their accreditation, he said PhilHealth will not receive, process and pay any claims of benefits for confinements or services rendered involving the three hospitals"*;

**WHEREAS**, according to a news article dated 06 September 2022, PhilHealth imposed a three month suspension of the Benguet General Hospital's (BeGH) accreditation due to an administrative offense committed by the hospital in 2011. The provincial government of Benguet appeals to President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to lift the suspension of the PhilHealth accreditation emphasizing that the BeGH is a 300-bed facility managed by the provincial government and is the only tertiary hospital in the area that caters to residents who are mostly farmers. Governor Melchor Diclas noted that *"the implementation of the decision of suspension of Philhealth accreditation of BeGH at this very difficult time will deprive the people of Benguet from availing the National Health Insurance Program and will affect the implementation of the Universal Health Care Law"*;

**WHEREAS**, in another news article dated 21 September 2022, it was reported that PhilHealth revoked the accreditation of two hospitals in Baguio City, Saint Louis Hospital of the Sacred Heart (SLU-HSH) and Notre Dame de Chartres Hospital, due to alleged violations related to failure to accredit or provide healthcare to senior citizens under PhilHealth's program. Baguio City Mayor Benjamin Magalong assailed PhilHealth's decision to revoke the accreditation of the said hospitals, which he described as *"very inconsiderate, very inappropriate, very unreasonable, and very unconscionable"*. The mayor further noted that *"95 to 98% of the patients of the two facilities, which are tertiary hospitals catering not just to Baguio and Benguet residents but those from nearby regions and providing state-of-the-art medical services, are PhilHealth members who rely on the state insurer for their health needs."*;

**WHEREAS**, according to Dr. Paul Adlai Quitiquit of SLU-HSH, a number of patients cannot be accommodated in private hospitals if the PhilHealth accreditation of the SLU-HSH will be suspended or revoked. Dr. Quitiquit added that these patients cannot all be accommodated at the Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center;


**WHEREAS**, the PhilHealth accreditation of the Tuguegarao City Public General Hospital was not renewed this year due to numerous legal cases arising from the hospital's alleged violations of PhilHealth policies. The city government of Tuguegarao appeals for reconsideration as the non-renewal of the hospital's accreditation will deprive the city and nearby towns' indigent patients of PhilHealth coverage and benefits;

**WHEREAS,** Department of Justice Secretary Jesus Crispin Remulla recently stated in a seven-page legal opinion that the penalty of revocation of accreditation is only imposed to those health care providers that are considered recidivists and that *“the law explicitly state that recidivists may no longer be accredited or contracted as participants of the program.”* Secretary Remulla further stated that the penalty is not mandatory but discretionary. That, PhilHealth *“may lift the penalty of revocation of accreditation imposed upon the respondent health care provider, if based on its assessment the erring health care provider has already faithfully complied with all its requirements and guidelines”*;

**WHEREAS,** PhilHealth recognizes that the suspension or revocation of a hospital’s accreditation will result to members not being able to avail of their benefits when admitted in these facilities. Thus, there is a need to conduct a review of the current PhilHealth policies governing the suspension or revocation of accreditation of hospitals to ensure continuous entitlement of PhilHealth benefits to the members and their dependents;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED,** directing the appropriate Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, to review and study existing laws, rules and regulations on the suspension or revocation of PhilHealth accreditation of private and public hospitals.

*Adopted,*

  
**IMEE R. MARCOS**