

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

SENATE  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

10 JUL -1 P1:10

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

S. No. 58

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Introduced by Senator JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI

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### EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XIII, Section 11 of the 1987 Philippine 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. The enactment of Republic Act no. 7875, otherwise known as the National Health Insurance Act of 1995 provides for a system wherein the poor can avail of health services through their membership in the National Health Insurance Program and the creation of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth).

Unfortunately, the quality of health care has not significantly improved all these past years as the costs continue to soar making appropriate care beyond the reach of ordinary people. It is also undeniable that the Filipino masses, especially those who live in the rural areas and, more particularly, those in isolated communities and far-flung areas, receive far less and lower quality health care services. Many continue to die without availing of medical services and even without seeing a doctor.

This bill proposes that every Filipino citizen be entitled to mandatory universal healthcare coverage by their immediate and automatic inclusion to Philippine Health Insurance coverage and membership, and that the contribution of indigent members be funded by the National Government which shall be included annually in the General Appropriations Act, without prejudice to other sources of contribution.

In view of the foregoing, urgent approval of the bill is earnestly sought.

  
JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI

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**AN ACT  
TO ENSURE THAT EVERY FILIPINO IS GRANTED WITH BASIC HEALTHCARE  
SERVICES, PROVIDING FOR THE PURPOSE A MANDATORY UNIVERSAL  
HEALTHCARE COVERAGE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

1           **SECTION 1. Short Title.** - This Act shall be known as the "Mandatory Universal  
2 Healthcare Coverage of Every Filipino Act."

3  
4           **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** - Pursuant to Section 15, Article II of the 1987  
5 Constitution the State hereby declares the policy of protecting and promoting the right to  
6 health of the people and instilling health consciousness among them. Towards this end,  
7 the State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health  
8 development, which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social  
9 services available to every Filipino at affordable cost.

10  
11           **SEC. 3. Mandatory Universal Healthcare Coverage of Every Filipino.** - Every  
12 Filipino citizen shall be entitled to mandatory universal healthcare coverage by their  
13 immediate and automatic inclusion to Philippine Health Insurance coverage and  
14 membership as provided for under Republic Act No. 7875, as amended, otherwise  
15 known as the "National Health Insurance Act of 1995". Accordingly, all the benefits  
16 under R.A. No. 7875 as amended shall also be made applicable and available to every  
17 Filipino citizen. *Provided,* That contribution of indigent members shall be funded by the  
18 National Government through the General Appropriations Act, without prejudice to other  
19 sources of contribution.

20  
21           **SEC. 4. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - The Secretary of Health, in  
22 coordination with the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PHIC) shall, within sixty

1 (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, promulgate the necessary rules and regulations  
2 for the effective implementation of the provisions of this Act.

3

4 **SEC. 5. Separability Clause.** - If any provision of this Act is declared  
5 unconstitutional or invalid, the professions not affected thereby shall continue to be in  
6 full force and effect.

7

8 **SEC. 6. Repealing Clause** - All laws, including Republic Act No. 7875 as  
9 amended, decrees orders, rules and regulations or other issuance inconsistent with the  
10 provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

11

12 **SEC. 7. Effectivity Clause.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
13 publication in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

14

15 Approved,