


10 JUL -7 P4:12

SENATE

Senate Bill No. 726

RECEIVED BY 

---

INTRODUCED BY SEN. JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA

---

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XIII, Section 11 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution in no uncertain terms lays down the national health policy of our country in this manner: "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."

Unfortunately, it would seem that the State has failed, and continues to fail, in performing the above-quoted Constitutional imperative. In fact, health financing does not rank high in the government's priorities. In 2005, of the Php 181 Billion total expenditure for health, 48.4% came from out-of-pocket expenditure of individual families. Government's share, on the other hand, was only 28.7% while social health insurance accounted for 11% and health expenditure from other sources like private health insurance or community based financing accounted for 11.9%. These data clearly show that the burden of paying for health care services is from out-of-pocket payments. Considering that 26.9% of Filipino families are below the poverty threshold in 2006, it is unimaginable how Filipinos, who are everyday grappling with the hardships of economic realities, will be able to afford a decent healthcare service for themselves and their families.

Thus, this proposed measure mandates that every Filipino be entitled to mandatory universal health care coverage by their immediate inclusion and membership in the Philippine Health Insurance system which will entitle them to all the healthcare benefits provided under Republic Act No. 7875. The mandatory universal coverage mandated by this bill shall be supported by premium payments made by the National Government to the PhilHealth, which shall be included annually in the General Appropriations Act, without prejudice to other sources of contribution.


In view of the foregoing, early passage of this bill is earnestly requested.

  
JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA  
Senator

10 JUL -7 P4:12

SENATE

Senate Bill No. 726

RECEIVED BY 

---

INTRODUCED BY SEN. JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA

---

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:*

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

**SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** - Pursuant to Section 15, Article 11 of the  
1987 Constitution the State hereby declares the policy of protecting and  
promoting the right to health of the people and instilling health consciousness  
among them. Towards this end, 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 every Filipino at  
affordable cost.

**SEC. 3. Mandatory Universal Healthcare Coverage of Every Filipino.** -  
Every Filipino citizen shall be entitled to mandatory universal healthcare  
coverage by their immediate and automatic inclusion to Philippine Health  
Insurance coverage and membership as provided for under Republic Act No.  
7875 otherwise known as the "National Health Insurance Act of 1995;"  
Accordingly, all the benefits under Republic Act No. 7875 shall also be made  
applicable and available to every Filipino citizen. *Provided,* That such universal  
coverage shall be funded by the National Government through premium  
payments to the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation, which shall be included  
annually in the General Appropriations Act, without prejudice to other sources of  
contribution.

**SEC. 4. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - The Secretary of  
Health, in coordination with the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PHIC),  
shall within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act promulgate the  
necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of the provisions  
of this Act.

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

**SEC. 6. *Repealing Clause*** - All laws, decrees orders, rules and regulations or other issuance inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

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

*Approved,*