

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

SENATE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

SENATE

9 MAY -6 P5:45

S.B. No. **3219**

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Introduced by Senator Loren Legarda

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XIII, Section 11 of the Constitution provides the policy of the State to 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.

As we embark in our journey to reach the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, the health sector should be one of the prioritized sectors by the State today. However, what is looming is a slow response to the health sector, as total health expenditure only accounted for 9.4 percent of the country's total expenditure in 2005. The share of health expenditure to GDP in 2005 was lower at 3.3 percent than the previous year's 3.4 percent. Overall, it is still below the 5 percent standard set by the World Health Organization for developing countries like the Philippines. Meanwhile, the out-of-pocket payments are visualized to be lower than that of social insurance as to give citizens appropriate health care support. Unfortunately, the share of out-of-pocket payments has increased to 49%, while that of social insurance payments is a low 11%.

Although the Republic Act 7875, otherwise known as the "National Health Insurance Act of 1995," mandates that an affordable and accessible health care coverage should be made available to all citizens, it has been more than a decade and not all citizens have become beneficiaries. The bill seeks to address this by ensuring that all the benefits under Republic Act 7875 are made available to every Filipino citizen.

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

LOREN LEGARDA
Senator

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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 I. Short Title.** - This Act shall be known as the

2 *"Mandatory Universal Healthcare Coverage of Every Filipino Act."*

3 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** - Pursuant to Section 15, Article II

4 of the 1987 Constitution the State hereby declares the policy of protecting

5 and promoting the right to health of the people and instilling health

6 consciousness among them. Towards this end, the State shall adopt

7 an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development, which

8 shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services

9 available to every Filipino at affordable cost.

10 **SEC. 3. Mandatory Universal Healthcare Coverage of Every**

11 *Filipino.* - Every Filipino citizen shall be entitled to mandatory universal

12 healthcare coverage by their immediate and automatic inclusion to

13 Philippine Health Insurance coverage and membership as provided

14 for under Republic Act No. 7875, as amended, otherwise known as the

15 "National Health Insurance Act of 1995". Accordingly, all the benefits

16 under R.A. No. 7875 as amended shall also be made applicable and

17 available to every Filipino citizen. *Provided,* That contribution of indigent

1 members shall be funded by the National Government through the
2 General Appropriations Act, without prejudice to other sources of
3 contribution.

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

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

12 **SEC. 6. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, including Republic Act No.
13 7875 as amended, decrees orders, rules and regulations or other issuance
14 Inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended
15 or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,