

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES**
First Regular Session



SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 429

INTRODUCED BY: SENATOR EMMANUEL D. PACQUIAO

**A RESOLUTION
EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE TO IMPOSE SUSPENSION OF THE
INCREASE IN PHILHEALTH PREMIUM CONTRIBUTIONS FOR HEALTHCARE
PROFESSIONALS AND OTHER HEALTH CARE WORKERS APPLICABLE FOR
THE YEAR 2020**

WHEREAS, Article XIII, Sec. 11 of the 1987 Constitution provides that “[t]he 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. There shall be priority for the needs of the under-privileged, sick, elderly, disabled, women, and children. The State shall endeavor to provide free medical care to paupers;”

WHEREAS, On 20 February 2019, Republic Act No. 11223 or the Universal Health Care Act was signed into law which automatically enrolls all Filipino citizens in the government’s National Health Insurance Program (NHIP);

WHEREAS, The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PHIC) issued Philhealth Circular 2019-0009 which provides the schedule of increases in premium contributions to the NHIP pursuant to the UHC Act. Under the Act, the premium rate for direct contributors shall be increased from 2.75% to 3% in 2020 and shall be further raised annually until the premium rate reaches 5% by 2024;

WHEREAS, the accreditation by the PHIC is needed before a health care professional (HCProf) may participate in the NHIP. Such accreditation process is in place to ensure that HCProfs meet the qualifications imposed by applicable laws;

WHEREAS, as a prerequisite for accreditation, HCProfs need to be a registered NHIP member of good standing. As such, the HCProfs are required to maintain active membership by regularly paying the mandated PHIC premium contributions during the validity of the accreditation;

WHEREAS, Philhealth Circular No. 2020-0006 was issued to clarify that accredited HCProfs are participating in the NHIP as director contributors. As such, HCProfs are covered

by the schedule of annual increases in rates of contribution under the UHC Act and its implementing rules;

WHEREAS, 2020, the first year of the implementation of the increased rate of premium contributions, coincided with the advent and continuation of the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in the Philippines. This has constrained most, if not all, HCProfs and other Health Care Workers in the country to sacrifice and devote their time, and to voluntarily risk their well-being and even their lives, to bravely frontline the fight to help cure the afflicted and to stem the surge of transmission of the disease caused by the Covid-19 virus. These have resulted in the disruption of the professional practice of the HCProfs, concomitantly leading to the marked decrease in the income of HCProfs and related Health Care Workers, and to some, even to the closure of their clinics;

WHEREAS, the HCProfs, through the PMA, are requesting the government to kindly understand the situation of HCProfs and other Health Care Workers, and for the suspension of the application of the 2020 increase in premium contributions for HCProfs and other Health Care Workers. Such a suspension may help these frontliners in a small way, but the recognition and expression of gratitude will go a little farther to support them moving forward;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, TO EXPRESS THE SENSE OF THE SENATE TO IMPOSE A SUSPENSION OF THE INCREASE IN PHILHEALTH PREMIUM CONTRIBUTIONS FOR HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS AND OTHER HEALTH CARE WORKERS APPLICABLE FOR THE YEAR 2020.

Adopted,


EMMANUEL B. PACQUIAO