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Introduced by Senator JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI

EXPLANATORY NOTE

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 service. Many continue to die without availing of medical services and even without seeing a doctor.

These problems are even made worse by the continuing exodus of doctors and nurses in search for green pastures abroad, and the continuing inability and of local government units to provide adequate budgetary assistance to medical facilities long devolved by the national government.

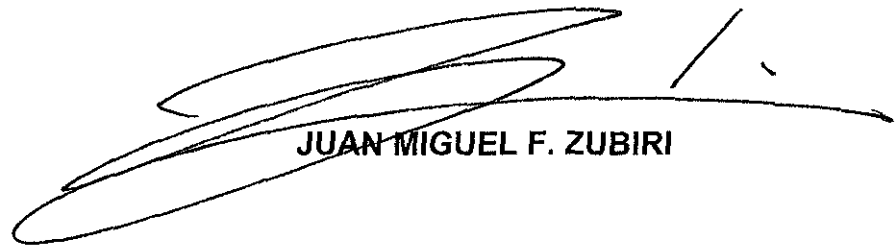
The decentralized primary health care system has remained weak and unresponsive to the health needs of the people and direly awaits the needed infusion of support and assistance from no less than Congress which can no longer keep its eyes closed to the damaging dysfunctions and disarray that the policy of devolution and decentralization has not unexpectedly wrought in the lives of the impoverished populace.

This proposed remedial legislation seeks to contribute effective strategies in solving the worsening national health situation by introducing vital amendments in the National Health Insurance Law that, among others, will help address the drain of doctors and other medical personnel serving health care providers in the countryside, as well as their lack of specialized trainings and needed exposures to advance their competence and expertise.

It is a very vital contribution that PHILHEALTH must welcome, and in fact, the wisest investment it could ably make as compared to its investments in governmental bonds and securities and corporate stocks which always run the risks of loss and mismanagement.

This legislative initiative also aims to provide financial assistance to health care providers that cater to numerous indigents and residents of impoverished barangays and municipalities of the archipelago.

In view of the urgency to address the fast worsening problems and grave challenges in public health care, it is earnestly urged that this bill be certified as an urgent administrative measure and a priority legislation of Congress to ensure its swift deliberation and passage in our legislative anvils.



JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI

1 Section 4. Information Campaign.—A three-month intensive public information
2 campaign shall be undertaken by the Department of Health and the Philippine Health
3 Insurance Corporation prior to the implementation of the rules and regulations of this
4 Act.

5 Section 5. Oversight Provision. Congress shall conduct a bi-annual review of the
6 management and implementation of the performance and program herein enacted.

7 Section 6. Separability Clause. If any part or provision of this Act shall be held
8 invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions which are not affected thereby shall
9 remain valid and in full force and effect.

10 Section 7. Repealing Clause. All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders,
11 rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this
12 Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

13 Section 8. Effectivity.—This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
14 publication in at least three (3) newspapers of general circulation.

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16 Approved,