

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

8 JUL 14 1992

SENATE
S. NO. 1992

Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to require automatic enrollment of all citizens in the National Health Insurance Program.

Health is wealth. It is both a means and an end of development. Healthy citizens are essential to bring about faster economic development and better quality of life. Thus, the government provides several health care programs to the people. Among these is the National Health Insurance Program designed to help the people pay for their health care services.

A review of the Program would reveal, however, the need to strengthen the delivery of health care services to the people. Under the National Health Insurance Program, automatic membership is extended to beneficiaries of MEDICARE, SSS, and GSIS members, retirees, pensioners, and their dependents, but requires indigents and the unemployed to first enroll in the Program by complying with several requirements. Many are still deprived of the benefits of the Program, particularly the marginalized sector. A survey by the Department of Health showed that individuals belonging to poor families have a high degree of mortality since they cannot avail themselves of the necessary health care services.

The primary concern of the Program should be to uplift the plight of the poor by making free health care services readily accessible to everybody. This proposed measure gives highest priority in extending the maximum coverage to the population with the basic minimum package of health insurance benefits. Automatic enrollment of all citizens of the Philippines in the Program will significantly address the country's health needs and problems.

The immediate passage of this bill is earnestly recommended.


ANTONIO "SONNY" F. TRILLANES IV
Senator

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SENATE
S. NO. 1992

RECEIVED



Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV

AN ACT
PROVIDING THAT ALL CITIZENS OF THE PHILIPPINES SHALL
AUTOMATICALLY BE ENROLLED IN THE NATIONAL HEALTH
INSURANCE PROGRAM AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE THE NATIONAL
HEALTH INSURANCE ACT OF 1995

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

1 **SECTION 1.** Section 6 of Republic Act no. 7875 is hereby amended to read as
2 follows:

3 “Sec. 6. *Coverage.* – All citizens of the Philippines shall
4 AUTOMATICALLY BE ENROLLED AND be covered by the National Health
5 Insurance Program. [In accordance with the principles of universality and compulsory
6 coverage enunciated in Section 2(b) and 2(1) hereof, implementation of the Program
7 shall, furthermore, be gradual and phased in over a period of not more than fifteen (15)
8 years: *Provided,* That the Program shall not be made compulsory in certain provinces
9 and cities until the Corporation shall be able to ensure that the members in such
10 localities shall have reasonable access to adequate and acceptable health care
11 services.”]

12

13 **SEC. 2.** Section 7 of the same Act is hereby further amended to read as follows:

14 “Sec. 7. *Enrollment.* – The Program shall AUTOMATICALLY enroll
15 ALL CITIZENS OF THE PHILIPPINES AS beneficiaries in order for them to be

