

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

House of Representatives
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1831

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Introduced by Congressman Alfredo D. Vargas III

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In the Social Justice and Human Rights clause of the 1987 Philippine Constitution, the persons with disability (PWD) sector was identified as one of the groups entitled to prioritization in health development. It reads:

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. There shall be **priority** for the needs of the underprivileged, sick, elderly, **disabled**, women and children.

This constitutional provision is further enshrined in Republic Act (R.A.) No. 7277, otherwise known as the "Magna Carta for Persons with Disability", which secures the PWDs' rights to essential health services, including duties by the State to provide preventive measures and medical treatment.

The results of the 2010 Census of Population and Housing showed that there are 1,442,586 PWDs in the country, representing 1.53% of the Philippine population. And while the Philippines has become home to PWD heroes and leaders, more needs to be done to ensure that the PWDs' right to health is protected, promoted, and prioritized.

This bill seeks the mandatory enrollment of all PWDs in the National Health Insurance Program. As a consequence, all funds necessary in carrying out the implementation of this proposal shall be sourced from the sin tax collections, in accordance with the National Revenue Code, as amended by R.A. 10351.

This representation, including the bill's proponent from the Senate, Senator Ralph G. Recto, earnestly seeks the speedy passage of the bill.


ALFREDO D. VARGAS III

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AN ACT

GRANTING MANDATORY PHILHEALTH COVERAGE TO ALL PERSONS WITH DISABILITY (PWDs), AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7277, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "MAGNA CARTA FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITY", PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR 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 Philhealth Coverage for All PWDs Act of 2016".

Sec. 2. A new section is hereby added after Section 18 under "Chapter III. HEALTH" of Republic Act No. 7277, as amended, otherwise known as the "Magna Carta for Persons with Disability" to read as follows:

"SEC. 19. MANDATORY PHILHEALTH COVERAGE. – ALL PERSONS WITH DISABILITY SHALL BE COVERED BY THE NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM OF PHILHEALTH. FUNDS NECESSARY TO ENSURE THE ENROLLMENT OF ALL PWDS WHO ARE NOT CURRENTLY COVERED UNDER ANY EXISTING CATEGORY SHALL BE SOURCED FROM THE NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE FUND OF PHILHEALTH EARMARKED FROM THE PROCEEDS OF SIN TAX COLLECTIONS AS PROVIDED FOR IN REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10351."

Sec. 3. The succeeding sections of Republic Act No. 7277, as amended, are hereby renumbered accordingly.

Sec. 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) shall promulgate, not later than thirty (30) days upon the effectivity of this Act, the necessary rules and regulations for its proper and effective implementation.

Sec. 5. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

Sec. 6. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,