

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

First Regular Session
EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

House Resolution No. 131



Introduced by Rep. Precious Hipolito Castelo

A RESOLUTION

FOR THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH TO ENJOIN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO ISSUE OFFICIAL POLICY STATEMENT OR ADVISORY TO ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE HOSPITALS OR MEDICAL CLINICS AGAINST THE RAMPANT VIOLATIONS OF THE INTENT AND SPIRIT OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9439 THAT PROHIBITS DETENTION OF PATIENTS ON GROUNDS OF NONPAYMENT OF HOSPITAL BILLS OR MEDICAL EXPENSES

WHEREAS, the rampant violations of the intent and spirit of RA 9439 that prohibits detention of patients on grounds of nonpayment of hospital bills or medical expenses have become cause for alarm since they aggravate the plight of patients;

WHEREAS, it has become commonplace that patients unable to settle their hospital bills or medical expenses have reasonably invoked such protection enshrined in RA 9439 and yet, hospitals and medical clinics and their personnel or officer have taken the law for granted and instead detained patients such that the more additional days of their continued, albeit, unlawful detention, the more costs accrue against the patient's accounts;

WHEREAS, when a patient otherwise already given the go-signal by doctors for discharge but then is being detained by the hospital or medical clinic on ground of nonpayment of hospital bills and expenses, then in net effect, this is an act of detaining the patient, which aggravates his health and medical condition – a situation that the law envisions to address;

WHEREAS, under the law, the Department of Health 'shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to carry out the provisions' of RA 9439 but this now comes more on the breach than in dutiful observance of what the law prescribes or what the law punishes in case of violation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives to enjoin the Department of Health to issue official policy statement or advisory to all public and private hospitals or medical clinics against the rampant violations of the intent and spirit of Republic Act No. 9439 that prohibits detention of patients on grounds of nonpayment of hospital bills or medical expenses.

APPROVED,


PRECIOUS HIPOOLITO CASTELO
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