

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1223



Introduced by: Hon. Angelina "Helen" D.L. Tan, M.D.

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION TO FULFILL ITS MANDATED RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11223, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE (UHC) ACT, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF PROTECTING AND PROMOTING THE RIGHT TO HEALTH OF THE FILIPINOS

WHEREAS, Article 2, Section 15 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution mandates that: "The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instil health consciousness among them";

WHEREAS, consistent with the above Constitutional mandate, Republic Act No. 7875 created the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) and instituted the National Health Insurance Program (NHIP) and thereafter was amended by Republic Act (R.A.) No. 9241, R.A. 10606, and the landmark R.A. 11223 otherwise known as the "Universal Health Care Act" (UHC);

WHEREAS, the UHC law was enacted to ensure that all Filipinos are guaranteed equitable access to quality and affordable health care goods and services, and protected against financial risk;

WHEREAS, the UHC law provides that every Filipino citizen shall be automatically included into the NHIP and mandates PhilHealth to implement a "comprehensive outpatient benefit, including outpatient drug benefit and emergency medical services...";

WHEREAS, PhilHealth was mandated to regulate, together with the Department of Health, co-payments and co-insurance for amenities in public hospitals and provide additional benefits for direct contributors, where applicable;

WHEREAS, the law provides that premium subsidy by the Government for indirect contributors shall be released to PhilHealth and that it shall provide for a corresponding increase in benefits for every increase in the rate of contribution of direct contributors;

WHEREAS, among PhilHealth's multifarious functions under the UHC law is to act as the manager of several funds to secure benefit payouts to all members; contract public, private, or mixed health care provider networks for the delivery of individual-based health services; and establish a rating system under an incentive scheme to acknowledge and reward health facilities that provide better service, quality and equity, among its other powers and functions;

WHEREAS, amid the COVID-19 pandemic that has sadly ravaged the lives of many Filipinos and the economy of the country, PhilHealth, after a string of massive controversies in

the past, has once again hugged the headlines in the face of corruption allegations surrounding the agency;

WHEREAS, on the heels of what might be considered as the biggest corruption scandal that rocked PhilHealth, several proposals have surfaced to reform the health insurance agency, which ranged from leadership change, reorganization, organization redesign to privatization, and even abolition;

WHEREAS, inasmuch as PhilHealth is one of the State's main instruments for providing quality, affordable and accessible health care services to all Filipinos and one of the primary agencies tasked to implement the UHC law, there is an urgent need to look into its existing organizational design, financial procedures, and internal policies with the view of determining its effectiveness to perform mandated powers and responsibilities, especially in the face of its expansion of coverage to include more members as well as illnesses and medical procedures under the UHC law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the House of Representatives to direct the Committee on Health to conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, into the effectiveness of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation to fulfil its mandated responsibilities under Republic Act No. 11223, otherwise known as the Universal Health Care Act, with the end in view of protecting and promoting the right to health of the Filipinos.

Adopted,



ANGELINA "HELEN" D.L. TAN, M.D.
4th District, Quezon