

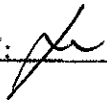
FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



Senate
Office of the Secretary

10 NOV 25 P2:15

SENATE
P.S.R. No. 298

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE NEED TO FIND ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF FUNDS AND ALLOCATE A PORTION OF THESE TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH SECTOR IN ORDER TO IMPROVE THE PUBLIC HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article Section 16 states: "The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them";

WHEREAS, in a position paper submitted by the Coalition for Health Budget Increase (CHBI), about 15 organizations asked for changes in the 2011 health budget apart from calling for its increase from P33.3 billion to P90 billion;

WHEREAS, the CHBI believes that the proposed P90 billion health budget will realistically address the most urgent health needs of the people by improving the public healthcare delivery system; by increasing the budget allocation for preventive and public health programs and health promotion; by increasing the budget allocation for infectious diseases such as tuberculosis, dengue, malaria, and HIV/AIDS, among others; by increasing the budget allocation for reproductive health, safe motherhood, and non-infectious diseases; and by increasing the budget allocation for the implementation of the National Drug Policy, and for drug regulation and promotion of rational drug use;

WHEREAS, the proposed increase in the health budget will also address the lack of health human resource maintenance and development; the increase will help see the full implementation of the Nursing Act and Magna Carta of Public Health Workers; likewise, an increase in the budget will help the public health sector acquire and maintain more doctors and barangay health workers;

WHEREAS, it was also stated in the position paper that the Philippine General Hospital, the biggest tertiary hospital in the country, suffers a budget cut of P114M for MOOE;

WHEREAS, the key areas targeted by the alternative budget proposal are the lack of healthcare personnel, lack of healthcare services, and lack of focus on preventive and curative medicine;

WHEREAS, although the capital outlay for hospitals and health facilities have increased, it should be noted that all hospitals and health facilities are lumped under this item; also; since the allocation of the amount is discretionary, it raises the question which hospitals and health facilities will be prioritized by the Department of Health;

WHEREAS, it is the government's duty to provide accessible and affordable healthcare for all Filipinos; although PhilHealth provides discounted rates and reimbursement of medical expenses, medicines, medical supplies, and laboratory tests are

still shouldered by beneficiaries since these are often lacking in government hospitals; worse, there are no PhilHealth accredited hospitals in far flung areas where majority of Filipinos reside;

WHEREAS, the legislature should study and create measures that will ensure access to public health services in far flung areas, and increase the subsidy for medical expenses to the underprivileged;

WHEREAS, the budget deliberations is a very politicized process; to ensure that there will always be additional funds for the health sector, the legislature should create measures that will ensure that a portion of alternative sources of funds are automatically allocated to the public health sector;

WHEREAS, instead of inserting earmarks into the 2011 budget, the legislature should commit to allocate part of its Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF) to the improvement of the health sector; a portion of unpaid corporate taxes should also be automatically allocated to the improvement of government healthcare facilities;

WHEREFORE, be it resolved, as it is hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the need to find alternative sources of funds and allocate a portion of these to the public health sector in order to improve the public healthcare system.

Adopted,

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

/mat