

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

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SENATE
PSR No. 701

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BY: 

Introduced by Senator Aquilino "Koko" L. Pimentel III

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON
GOVERNMENT CORPORATIONS AND PUBLIC
ENTERPRISES, HEALTH AND DEMOGRAPHY AND ALL
OTHER PROPER COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN
INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE HUGE
INCREASE IN PREMIUM CONTRIBUTIONS OF ALL
MEMBERS OF THE PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE
CORPORATION (PHILHEALTH)

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 15 states, "the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them;"

WHEREAS, Congress passed RA 7875 – the National Health Insurance Act of 1995 which created the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) and instituted the National Health Insurance program;

WHEREAS, under RA 7875, PhilHealth is mandated to provide all citizens of the Philippines with the mechanism to gain financial access to health services, provide means to help the people pay for health care services, and prioritize and accelerate the provision of health services to all Filipinos, especially that segment of the population who cannot afford such services;

WHEREAS, PhilHealth must submit to the President of the Philippines and to both Houses of Congress its Annual

Report which shall contain the status of the National Health Insurance Fund, its total disbursements, reserves, average costing to beneficiaries, any request for additional appropriation, and other data pertinent to the implementation of the Program and publish a synopsis of such report in two (2) newspapers of general circulation;

WHEREAS, PhilHealth members are paying or used to pay Nine Hundred pesos (P900.00) per year as their annual premium contribution;

WHEREAS, on December 15, 2011, the Board of Directors of PhilHealth issued Circular 22 series of 2011 regarding new premium contributions to the National Health Insurance Program (NHIP) in support for the attainment of Universal Health Care and Millenium Development Goals (MDGs);

WHEREAS, according to PhilHealth Circular 22 series of 2011, PhilHealth members under the Sponsored Program, Partial Subsidy Scheme, and Individually Paying and Overseas Workers Programs will be paying Two Thousand Four Hundred Pesos (P2,400.00) as their annual premium contribution starting July 01, 2012, a 167% increase from the current annual membership premium of Nine Hundred pesos (P900.00);

WHEREAS, there will be a 6-month transition phase authorized by PhilHealth wherein Overseas Filipino Workers and self-employed Filipinos would be charged One Thousand Two Hundred pesos (P1,200.00) starting January 2012 for their annual premiums as a discounted rate prior to the higher premium slated in July 2012;

WHEREAS, various sectors of the country oppose the huge increase in their premium contributions and criticize the lack of consultation and dialogue with the members of PhilHealth especially the Overseas Filipino Workers;

WHEREAS, Overseas Filipino Workers are now mandatory members of the state-run national health program when the Overseas Workers Welfare

Administration transferred to PhilHealth OFW contributions amounting to Five Hundred Thirty million pesos (P530,000,000.00) in March and April of 2005;

WHEREAS, there is a need to review the benefits offered by the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) to all its members and enrollees;

WHEREAS, it is important to look into the status of the National Health Insurance Fund, its total disbursements, reserves, average costing to beneficiaries, and the reason for the huge increase in PhilHealth premium contributions;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Senate of the Philippines, to direct the Senate Committees on Government Corporations and Public Enterprises, Health and Demography and all other proper committees to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the huge increase in premium contributions of all members of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth).

Adopted,


AQUILINO "KOKO" L. PIMENTEL III