



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

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SENATE

RECEIVED BY:

P. S. Res. No. 716

Introduced by **SENATOR LEILA M. DE LIMA**

RESOLUTION
CALLING ON THE SENATE TO CONVENE THE CONGRESSIONAL
COMMISSION ON HEALTH PURSUANT TO REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7305,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "MAGNA CARTA OF PUBLIC HEALTH
WORKERS"

1 WHEREAS, Article II, Section 15 of the 1987 Constitution states in part that,
2 "[t]he State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people";

3 WHEREAS, Section 18 also provides that "[t]he State affirms labor as a primary
4 social economic force. It shall protect the rights of workers and promote their welfare";

5 WHEREAS, Article XIII, Section 12 of the same emphasizes the State obligation
6 "to establish and maintain... and undertake appropriate health manpower
7 development and research, responsive to the country's health needs and problems";

8 WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 7305, or the Magna Carta of Public Health
9 Workers, was signed into law in 1992 to promote the social and economic well-being
10 of health workers by ensuring that they are properly compensated which will in turn
11 benefit patients through the delivery of quality health care service;

12 WHEREAS, under the law, public health workers (PHWs) are entitled to
13 subsistence allowance, laundry allowance, longevity pay, hazard pay, night shift
14 differential, free living quarters or quarters allowance, remote assignment allowance
15 for doctors, dentists, nurses and midwives, free compulsory medical examination,
16 higher salary grade upon retirement, salary step increment for completion of a post
17 graduate degree and compensation for injuries;

18 WHEREAS, according to a 2011 Philippine Institute for Development Studies
19 (PIDS) study, successive governments have failed to fully provide for the payment of

1 benefits prescribed in the law. Only the subsistence allowance and laundry allowances
2 are given to PHWs;

3 WHEREAS, one of the problems pointed out by PIDS is that the law failed to
4 specify source of funds for payment of all benefits and as a result no one is accountable
5 to fund it;

6 WHEREAS, local government units' varying capacity to pay benefits of PHWs
7 has contributed to differences in benefits received even among those PHWs equal in
8 rank;

9 WHEREAS, the study further explained that as to public hospitals, they have
10 no choice but to derive it from their own savings. Since they are already overstretched
11 in meeting hospital operational expenses, they are forced to increase the number of
12 unfilled positions which aggravates the already poor health worker-to-patient ratio in
13 the country and the ability to provide quality health care at risk;

14 WHEREAS, Section 38 of RA 7305 merely provides that budgetary estimates
15 for the succeeding years should be reviewed and increased accordingly by the
16 Secretary of Health in consultation with Department of Budget and Management and
17 the Congressional Commission on Health (HEALTHCOM);

18 WHEREAS, under Section 34, HEALTHCOM is created to "conduct a periodic
19 health human resource development/management study into, among others,
20 upgrading of working conditions, reclassification of positions and salaries of public
21 health workers to correct disparity vis-a-vis other professions" and such review shall
22 be taken once every five (5) years;

23 WHEREAS, fifteen years since its enactment, monitoring of the
24 implementation of the law has been generally weak and our PHWs still remain
25 undervalued;

26 WHEREAS, the inconsistencies and discrepancies in the payment of benefits
27 prescribed in R.A. 7305 have sown discontent among PHWs rather than
28 empowerment;

29 WHEREAS, because of the current poor working conditions in the government
30 health sector, PHWs, especially nurses, are motivated to seek employment overseas.
31 As to doctors, less are pursuing the profession;

32 WHEREAS, government figures reveal that 92, 277 nurses have fled the country
33 since 2012, amounting to a total of 19,000 leaving the Philippines every year and that

1 the country is only producing 2,600 doctors a year, which results to a ratio of one
2 doctor to 33,000 Filipinos, far from the ideal 1 or 1.5 doctor for every 1,000 population
3 recommended by the World Health Organization;

4 WHEREAS, there is an urgent need for HEALTHCOM to convene and to revisit
5 the law and the revised Implementing Rules and Regulations to determine what
6 provisions need to be amended in order to plug the loopholes and to bridge the
7 statutory gaps;

8 NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to call on the Senate to convene the
9 Congressional Commission on Health pursuant to Republic Act No. 7305, otherwise
10 known as the "Magna Carta of Public Health Workers", with the end in view of
11 instituting reforms in the law for its effective and fair implementation.

Adopted,


LEILA M. DE LIMA