

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session



Senate
Office of the Secretary

'22 JUL 18 P4:56

SENATE

S. B. NO. 736

RECEIVED BY: _____

Introduced by **SENATOR JOEL VILLANUEVA**

**AN ACT PROVIDING FOR MANDATORY FREE HEALTH
MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATION (HMO) PLAN COVERAGE TO
FACULTY AND NON-TEACHING PERSONNEL IN STATE
UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XIV, Section 5, Paragraph (5) of the 1987 Constitution mandates that “[t]he State shall assign the highest budgetary priority to education and ensure that teaching will attract and retain its rightful share of the best available talents through adequate remuneration and other means of job satisfaction and fulfillment.” Towards this end, one of the efforts undertaken by the government is the implementation of an across-the-board increase in the salary schedule of civilian government personnel.

However, problems still persist with regard the provision of “adequate remuneration and other means of job satisfaction and fulfillment” to faculties and non-teaching personnel in state universities and colleges (SUCs). One of these problems is in the aspect of healthcare.

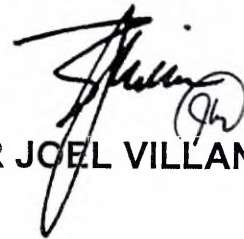
If the personnel were to suffer from a debilitating illness, limited PhilHealth coverage would only answer a fraction of the cost of treatment and the rest would still be shouldered out of the personnel’s pocket. This is especially alarming considering a full-time lecturer classified as Instructor 1 in a state university usually only receives salary equivalent to Salary Grade 12 or around Php27,608 per month, effective January 1, 2022.

The strain of hundreds of thousands of pesos in hospital bills and their meager salaries would definitely take a toll on their standard of living and quality of life. An emergency of this sort may possibly even put them into enormous amounts of debt.

As of April 2022, 102 out of 114 SUCs are conducting limited face-to-face classes. As more schools revert to face-to-face classes, the safety and health of teachers, staff, and students are of utmost importance. Thus, in order to ensure peace of mind for the beneficiaries, this bill seeks to provide faculty members and regular non-teaching personnel of SUCs with free mandatory health coverage provided by health maintenance organizations (HMOs). Under this bill, the Board of Regents of each SUC has the authority to decide on the form, coverage and terms of the HMO plan without any need of approval from other agencies and/or officers.

A free HMO coverage will not only increase the job satisfaction among SUC personnel, but it will also ensure that a healthy pool of faculty and non-teaching personnel will be able to teach and shape the minds of younger generations continuously and rigorously.

Thus, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joel Villanueva", with a stylized flourish at the end.

SENATOR JOEL VILLANUEVA



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Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “Free Health Card for
2 all State Universities and Colleges (SUC) Personnel Act.”
3

4 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby the policy of the State to give priority
5 to education, science and technology, arts, culture, and sports to foster patriotism and
6 nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote total human liberation and
7 development. It is also the policy of the State to assign the highest budgetary priority to
8 education and ensure that teaching will attract and retain its rightful share of the best
9 available talents through adequate remuneration and other means of job satisfaction and
10 fulfillment. Towards this end, and in order to protect the welfare of teaching and non-
11 teaching personnel, the State shall establish mandatory Health Maintenance Organization
12 (HMO) coverage to augment their healthcare coverage in case of health-related
13 contingencies.
14

15 **SEC. 3. Mandatory HMO Coverage.** – All SUCs shall provide mandatory HMO
16 coverage to all full-time faculty and regular non-teaching personnel of State Universities
17 and Colleges (SUCs). For this purpose, the Board of Regents of each SUC shall have the
18 discretion to decide the form, coverage, and terms of the services to be provided by an
19 HMO.
20

21 Notwithstanding anything to the contrary, the approval and implementation of the
22 mandatory HMO coverage provided under this Act shall not require any approval from
23 other agencies or officials.
24

25 For the avoidance of doubt, the mandatory HMO coverage provided under this Act
26 shall be in addition to the existing healthcare program provided to all government
27 employees through the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation.
28

1 **SEC. 4. Appropriations.** – The amounts necessary to carry out the provisions of
2 this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA) under the
3 budgets of the particular SUCs.
4

5 **SEC. 5. Separability Clause.** – If any provision of this Act is held invalid or
6 unconstitutional, the remaining provision of this Act not otherwise affected shall remain
7 valid and subsisting.
8

9 **SEC. 6. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, department or
10 memorandum orders, and other administrative issuance or parts thereof which are
11 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby modified, superseded or repealed
12 accordingly.
13

14 **SEC. 7. Effectivity Clause.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
15 publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.
16

17 Approved,