Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

First Regular Session

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HOUSE RESOLUTION No.

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Introduced by

ACT Teachers Party-List Rep. FRANCE L. CASTRO,
BAYAN MUNA Party-List Rep. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE,
Rep. FERDINAND GAITE and Rep. EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT,
GABRIELA Women's Party Rep. ARLENE D. BROSAS,
and KABATAAN Party-List Rep. SARAH JANE I. ELAGO

## RESOLUTION

TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE DELAY OR OUTRIGHT FAILURE TO REMIT EMPLOYEES' CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PHILHEALTH WHICH RESULT IN THESE EMPLOYEES NOT BEING ABLE TO ACCESS THEIR BENEFITS UNDER THE NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE ACT OF 2013

WHEREAS, there have been numerous complaints from employees in the public and private sectors, teachers and non-teaching employees in particular, on the delay or outright failure of their employers to remit their premiums to the PhilHealth;

WHEREAS, employees also report of the late posting of remitted contributions by the PhilHealth in its database;

WHEREAS, the employers' delays in remitting premium contributions and the PhilHealth's failure to update the members' records result in their employees being required to produce various documents which should already be in the systems of both the employers and the PhilHealth such as Member Registration Forms or certificates of contribution;

WHEREAS, many members have even reported that, at the time that they were claiming their benefits, they were told that they are unqualified for the same for lack of premium contributions. One teacher, who has already been in service for 20

years, even complained that the PhilHealth's online system informed her that she paid her premium contributions for only three months;

WHEREAS, worse, some members end up not being able to avail of their benefits and shouldering the entire amount of inpatient hospital services, outpatient care, and emergency services out of their own pockets;

WHEREAS, considering that the laws governing the PhilHealth mandate a system of automatic deduction, members are actually paying their premium contributions regularly. Their "disqualification" from receiving their benefits is therefore through no fault of theirs and they should receive their PhilHealth benefits;

WHEREAS, the PhilHealth has recently increased its premium contributions from 2.5% of the monthly basic pay to 2.75%, allegedly to increase its solvency and provide more benefits to members. However, a low contribution rate is not the reason for its failure to deliver to its members their health insurance benefits, as the above complaints prove;

WHEREAS, during the 17<sup>th</sup> Congress, the PhilHealth committed to the House of Representatives Committee on Labor and Employment that, to ease these problems, it will issue the necessary regulations that will lessen bureaucratic requirements and enable members—especially the majority coming from the civil service, public school teachers and other DepEd employees—to avail of their benefits upon mere proof of membership in the PhilHealth, such as the PhilHealth ID. However, the PhilHealth has released no such issuance to date;

WHEREAS, a congressional inquiry is needed to look into the PhilHealth's system of remittance and record-keeping, and to prod the PhilHealth and employers to address the above complaints.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as it is hereby resolved, that the House of Representatives conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation on the delay or outright failure to remit employees' contributions for PhilHealth which result in these employees not being able to access their benefits under Republic Act 7875, as amended by Republic Act 10606, or the National Health Insurance Act of 2013.

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