

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH (17<sup>th</sup>) CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **3491**

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	
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**Introduced by: Representative Jose L. Atienza, Jr**

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#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

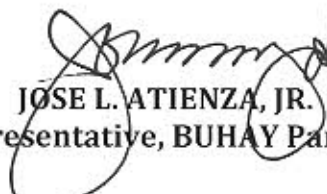
It is the responsibility of the State to ensure the protection and well-being of its citizens, primary of which is the provision of primary health care.

The country's 452 public hospitals have been largely inadequate to cater to the needs of our growing population. Most Filipinos who are daily and minimum wage earners cannot possibly afford to get treatment from private hospitals and medical institutions, and rely on public hospitals and clinics for their needs.

An example of this is the Dr. Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital, more popularly known as the national maternity hospital or "Paanakan ng Bayan", which attends to around 1,000 patients, almost all of them coming from poor families. Privatizing this institution would deprive these patients, mostly mothers, of quality treatment and care at a very affordable cost.

Which is why the proposed privatization of public hospitals would be grossly detrimental to the public. Privatizing these hospitals would only benefit the large corporations that will be operating them. This would only worsen the plight of millions of poor Filipinos who will have to shell out their hard-earned money for higher cost of medicines and treatment for them and their loves ones. Instead of privatizing these hospitals, government should provide funds for the immediate rehabilitation, upgrading and hiring of competent health professionals to ensure quality health care for the public.

This Act aims to prohibit the privatization of all public hospitals. We should instead look to strengthen these institutions instead of giving them away to the highest bidder.

  
**JOSE L. ATIENZA, JR.**  
Representative, BUHAY Party-list

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AN ACT  
PROHIBITING THE PRIVATIZATION OF GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “**Government Hospitals Privatization Prohibition Act**”.

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared a policy of the State under Article II Section 15 of the Constitution, that the state shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.

SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* – “Public Hospitals” shall refer to a hospital operated and maintained by the national, provincial, municipal, city government.

SECTION 4. *Prohibition on privatization of public hospitals.* – The Secretary of the Department of Health is hereby prohibited from privatizing, selling, or offering to sell all public hospitals.

SECTION 5 *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 6 *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions not affected shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 7. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of national circulation.

Approved.