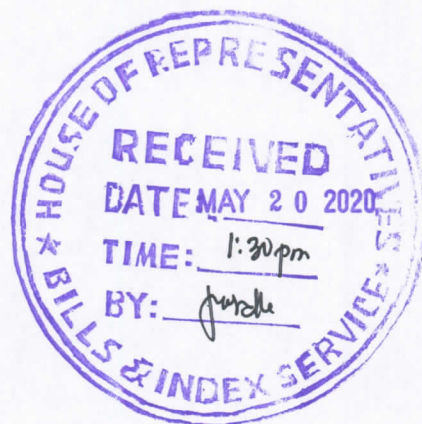




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila



EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Resolution No. 891

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE JOSE "BONG" J. TEVES

RESOLUTION

"URGING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO REVIEW REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11223 OR THE UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE ACT SPECIFICALLY THE PROVISION ON MANDATORY CONTRIBUTION AND INCREASE IN PHILHEALTH CONTRIBUTION OF OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS"

WHEREAS, under the Declaration of Principles and Policies of Republic Act No. 112233 otherwise known as the "Universal Health Care Act" (UHC law for brevity), Filipinos shall have access to health care model without causing financial burden upon them, and shall prioritize the needs of the population who cannot afford health care services;

WHEREAS, Section 2 (f) of UHC law classifies migrant workers, also known as "Overseas Filipino Workers" (OFWs), including their qualified dependents and lifetime members as direct contributors in the National Health Insurance Program and obligates them to provide premium contributions to Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth);

WHEREAS, Section 10 of UHC law provides for a table of premium contribution rates for direct contributors where the premium contributions shall increase annually until 2025, to wit:

Year	Premium Rate	Income Floor	Income Ceiling
2019	2.75%	P 10,000.00	P 50,000.00
2020	3.00%	P 10,000.00	P 60,000.00
2021	3.50%	P 10,000.00	P 70,000.00
2022	4.00%	P 10,000.00	P 80,000.00

2023	4.50%	P 10,000.00	P 90,000.00
2024	5.00%	P 10,000.00	P 100,000.00
2025	5.00%	P 10,000.00	P 100,000.00

WHEREAS, a large population of OFWs express their dissent and objection that as direct contributors, the mandatory premium contribution and its annual increase are unreasonable and unjust financial burden, and contrary to the UHC law's Declaration of Principles and Policies;

WHEREAS, aside from the unreasonable mandatory premium contribution rates, Section 10.2.c of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of the UHC law provides payment of PhilHealth premium contribution as condition prior to the issuance of the Overseas Employment Certificate (OEC);

WHEREAS, another burden was imposed to our OFWs under the PhilHealth Circular No. 2020-0014 whenever a member fails to pay the premium contribution after the due date, they shall be required to pay all missed contributions with monthly compounded interest;

WHEREAS, all of the above-mentioned stipulations are meant to oppress our hard working OFWs and are contrary to the UHC law's Declaration of Principles and Policies of providing health care services to the Filipinos without causing financial hardships on their part;

WHEREAS, the main reason why Filipinos are forced to work abroad is the lack of available employment in our country, hence, it is unfair on their part to be burdened by unreasonable and unjust mandatory premium contributions to PhilHealth. As OFWs, the fact of having to earn a living abroad, away from their families is already a sacrifice on their part. We should no longer impose any additional burden upon them;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the appropriate committee of the House of Representatives is urged to review Republic Act No. 11223 specifically its provision classifying migrant workers (OFWs) as direct contributors of PhilHealth thereby requiring them to pay premium contributions, and its implementing rules and regulations and other circulars related to the matter. Likewise, pending review of the appropriate committee of the House of Representatives, the PhilHealth administration is strongly urged to suspend the implementation of the aforesaid relevant provisions of the UHC law and its IRR, including its Circular No. 2020-0014.

Adopted,



HON. JOSE "BONG" J. TEVES, JR.
Representative, TGP Partylist