**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES**
*First Regular Session*

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**House Resolution No. 730**

Introduced by Representative **JANETTE LORETO-GARIN, MD, MBA-H**

**A RESOLUTION**

**URGING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE EXAMINATION OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11223, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE ACT, ON SOME PROVISIONS DEEMED RESTRICTIVE AND DETRIMENTAL TO HEALTH CARE AVAILABILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY, WITH AN END GOAL OF INSTITUTING NECESSARY LEGISLATIVE INTERVENTION ON THE REALIZATION OF MORE ACCESSIBLE HEALTH CARE FOR ALL FILIPINOS**

**WHEREAS,** Article II, Section 15 of the 1987 Constitution provides that the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them;

**WHEREAS,** Article XIII, Section 11 of the same is mandating the State to adopt and integrated and comprehensive approach to health development;

**WHEREAS,** Republic Act No. 11223, otherwise known as the Universal Health Care Act, was signed into law as a commitment to provide every Filipino the highest possible quality of healthcare;

**WHEREAS,** Section 34 of the same law mandates for a *Health Technology Assessment (HTA)* as a process of institutionalizing a fair and transparent priority setting mechanism;

**WHEREAS,** HTA is recommendatory for the Department of Health and PhilHealth in the development of policies and programs, regulation, and the determination of a range of entitlements such as drugs, medicines, pharmaceutical products, and other devices provided in the UHC law;

**WHEREAS,** one of the criteria that must be observed in the conduct of HTA is *Safety and Effectiveness*, wherein each intervention must undergo Phase IV clinical trial, and for a systematic review and meta-analysis be readily available;

**WHEREAS,** clinical development is a three-phase process[1];

**WHEREAS,** in *Phase I*, small groups of people receive the trial vaccine;

[1] As provided in https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/basics/test-approve.html

**WHEREAS,** in *Phase II*, the clinical study is expanded and vaccine is given to people who have characteristics (such as age and physical health) similar to those for whom the new vaccine is intended;

**WHEREAS**, in *Phase III*, the vaccine is given to thousands of people and tested for efficacy and safety;

**WHEREAS,** the post-marketing surveillance (*Phase IV*[2]), is a **monitoring and surveillance mechanism** wherein data is generated on long-term safety and/or efficacy for a new drug after it has been licensed in real-world conditions across different populations;

**WHEREAS,** Phase IV clinical trials for drug development would mean that the whole world will have to use the drug first, carefully observe and analyze its effects over a period of several years, only then a country could use it;

**WHEREAS,** with this requirement of Phase IV, Filipinos will have no recourse but to go to other countries to gain access to any breakthrough in science;

**WHEREAS,** this Section 34 of UHC is just one of the many provisions deemed restrictive and detrimental to health care accessibility;

**WHEREAS,** the World Health Organization is on top of dealing with the current outbreak of the corona virus disease (COVID-19) that was first reported from Wuhan, China;

**WHEREAS,** COVID-19 cases continue to increase worldwide, and with the global efforts being concerted to identify potential treatment, it is necessary for Congress to revisit the UHC law so as to rectify this landmark legislation and make the availability of medicines for Filipinos grounded on sound and rational legislation;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, To direct the House Committee on Public Accounts to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the implementation of the *Universal Health Care Act,* most notably on the conduct of Health Technology Assessment based on safety and effectiveness, as well as the other provisions of UHC law, to further strengthen our public health systems by not requiring a Phase IV clinical trial now that the Philippines and other countries around the world are at great risk to COVID-19.

Adopted,

**JANETTE LORETO-GARIN, MD, MBA-H**

[2] Developing drugs for children and treatment optimization trials often combine features of different phases, commonly blending Phases I and II and Phases II and III (World Health Organization).