

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City Metro Manila

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill 2546

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Introduced by **REP. ENRICO A. PINEDA** and **REP. MICHAEL ODYLON L. ROMERO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In the 2010 Census of the Philippines, it was revealed that there were 1,442,586 Persons with Disability (PWDs).

Because society has unfortunately failed in mainstreaming them, they have remained in the shadows – a million-and-a-half constituency whose pathways to productive lives have been blocked by minimal government attention and intervention.

Facilities for their care are largely negligible. Dedicated schools where they can learn life skills and hone a trade are virtually insignificant. Even the motley number of SPED centers cannot meet the demand for disabled children wanting to go to school.

Nowhere is the neglect more apparent than in the national budget where expenditures for their welfare are invisible. The dictum that those who have less in life should have more in government care does not seem to operate in their case.

Despite the passage of a slew of laws protecting and promoting PWD interests, much remains to be done in translating the prose of legislation into actual programs they can enjoy and benefit from. The struggle to provide care for those who remain in the shadows or have fallen between the cracks is an unfinished business and needs to be addressed at the soonest time possible. The huge national deficit when it comes to allocating resources for PWDs is relatively undeniable.

This bill is an attempt to reduce the debt the nation owes its PWDs.

It seeks to place them – in automatic and mandatory fashion – under PhilHealth coverage. By so doing, we provide a safety net that will assuage the PWD sector's greatest worry – access to health services. This bill specifically intends to do that by strengthening Republic Act 7227 or the "Magna Carta for Persons with Disability". If it does not provide guaranteed health care, the said law cannot lay claim to being truly a Magna Carta.

As to funding the health insurance of the PWD sector, this bill, once approved, mandates that it be sourced from that portion of Sin Tax collections earmarked for health as mandated by Republic Act 10351. The tax from vices will finance the social virtue of helping the differently abled.


ENRICO A. PINEDA


MICHAEL ODYLON L. ROMERO

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Introduced by **REP. ENRICO A. PINEDA** and **REP. MICHAEL ODYLON L. ROMERO**

AN ACT
GRANTING MANDATORY AND AUTOMATIC PHILHEALTH COVERAGE
TO ALL PERSONS WITH DISABILITY (PWDs),
THEREBY AMENDING "THE MAGNA CARTA FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITY"
OR REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7277

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

SECTION 1. A new section is hereby added under "Chapter III. HEALTH" of Republic Act No. 7277, as amended, to read as follows:

"SEC. 19. MANDATORY AND AUTOMATIC PHILHEALTH COVERAGE. – ALL PERSONS WITH DISABILITY ARE HEREBY AUTOMATICALLY PLACED UNDER PHILHEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE. THE AMOUNT NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THIS PROVISION SHALL BE INCLUDED IN THE ANNUAL GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT WITH FUNDS SOURCED FROM BUT NOT LIMITED TO PROCEEDS FROM SIN TAX COLLECTIONS WHICH ARE EARMARKED FOR HEALTH UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10351."

SEC. 2. The succeeding sections of Republic Act No. 7277, as amended, are hereby renumbered accordingly.

SEC. 3. The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (Philhealth), the Department of Health (DOH), and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) shall promulgate, not later than thirty (30) days upon the effectivity of this Act, the necessary rules and regulation for its proper and effective implementation.

SEC. 4. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,