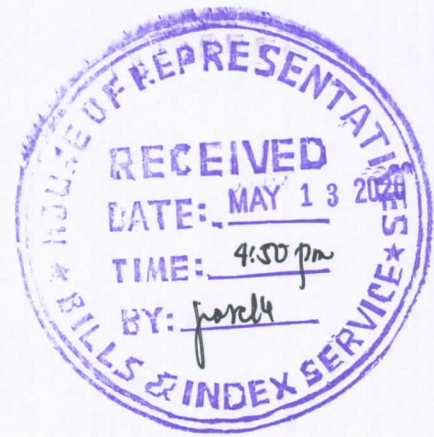


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Resolution No. 862

Introduced by Representative FLORIDA "RIDA" P. ROBES

RESOLUTION
APPEALING TO HIS EXCELLENCY RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE, PRESIDENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES, AND THE PHILIPPINE HEALTH
INSURANCE CORPORATION (PHILHEALTH) TO SUSPEND THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF PHILHEALTH CIRCULAR NO. 2019-0009 WHICH
TOOK EFFECT 7 DECEMBER 2019 INCREASING THE PHILHEALTH
CONTRIBUTION PREMIUM OF MEMBERS, INCLUDING DOCTORS AND
HEALTH WORKERS, IN VIEW OF THE ECONOMIC CHALLENGES CREATED
BY THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

WHEREAS, Republic Act 11223, otherwise known as the "An Act Instituting Universal Health Care For All Filipinos, Prescribing Reforms in the Health Care System and Appropriating Funds Therefor" was signed into law by President Rodrigo Roa Duterte on 20 February 2019;

WHEREAS, Section 10 of the said law provides for the premium contributions of all members of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (Philhealth);

WHEREAS, in compliance with Section 10 of the said law, Philhealth issued Circular No. 2019-0009 published on 23 November 2019 increasing the premium rate of Direct Contributors to three (3) percent of their monthly basic salary starting 2020 and every year thereafter, adjusted to increments of 0.5% every year until it reaches the 5% limit in 2025 as provided for by law. Income

floor is fixed at P10,000 during the 5-year period, while salary ceiling will gradually increase by P10,000 each year until it reaches P100,000 in 2025.

WHEREAS, Direct Contributors refer to those who are gainfully employed and are bound by an employer-employee relationship, or are self-earning individuals, practicing professionals, including doctors and healthcare professionals, and Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs), including their qualified dependents, and lifetime members;

WHEREAS, under Section 5.3 of Philhealth Circular No. 010, series of 2014, all doctors and healthcare professionals who file their application for accreditation with Philhealth are required to pay their premium contribution of the remaining applicable quarter/s of the current year plus one year or pay the remaining applicable quarter/s of the current year plus 2 years.

WHEREAS, as a result of the increase in premium contribution, health care professionals, including those working in the provinces, have to shell out at least P60,000.00 to P100,000.00 to get their Philhealth accreditation;

WHEREAS, this is a great burden to health care workers, particularly doctors, since they also imposed at least a five (5) percent withholding tax rate from their professional fees;

WHEREAS, on top of the increased accreditation fees and tax burden, doctors are left at the mercy of Philhealth which sometimes denies their claims or oftentimes delays the remittance of their entitlements;

WHEREAS, the rate increase in premium contribution is extremely burdensome on most doctors especially those in provinces and rural areas who are just earning average income;

WHEREAS, in a bid to address the burdensome increase in premium contribution of doctors, Philhealth and the Philippine Medical Association agreed in Memorandum Circular No. 2019-12-19-043 dated 19 December 2019 that the accreditation will be separated from payment of premiums;

WHEREAS, the same Memorandum indicated that while PhilHealth cannot change the rates, it allowed the doctors to pay either quarterly or annual payments;

WHEREAS, despite the abovementioned Memorandum, and considering the subsequent economic fallout caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and extreme physical, emotional and psychological weight this virus has brought upon our healthcare workers, especially our doctors, the imposition of the increase in premium contribution has become an extreme burden to our medical frontliners;

WHEREAS, in this difficult period, our healthcare workers are touted to be our true heroes because they risk their lives and that of their families in order to save lives. As a society, it is high time we should try to repay their unparalleled service to the country and humanity by making sure that they are not subjected to more unwarranted burdens;

WHEREAS, in view of the fact that the Covid-19 pandemic has affected not just health workers but every Filipino, the suspension of the implementation of the increase of premium contribution is warranted until this health crisis has passed;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, TO APPEAL TO HIS EXCELLENCY RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES, AND THE PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION (PHILHEALTH) TO SUSPEND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PHILHEALTH CIRCULAR NO. 2019-0009 WHICH TOOK EFFECT 7 DECEMBER 2019 INCREASING THE PHILHEALTH CONTRIBUTION PREMIUM OF MEMBERS, INCLUDING DOCTORS AND HEALTH WORKERS, IN VIEW OF THE ECONOMIC CHALLENGES CREATED BY THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

RESOLVED, FURTHER, to furnish a copy of this Resolution the Office of the President and the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation for their information and appropriate action.

Adopted.


Rep. FLORIDA "RIDA" P. ROBES