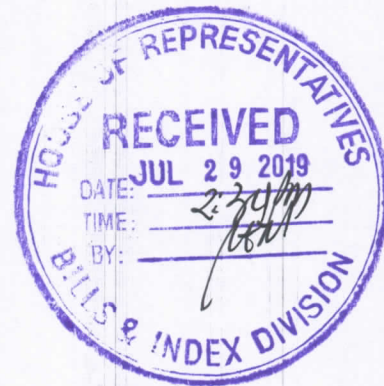


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Eighteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2977




Introduced by Representative Lucy Torres-Gomez

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill represents a another giant step towards a truly universal healthcare coverage for the working class. Should this measure be enacted into law, Philhealth coverage would no longer be subject to vicissitudes in political administration, financial capability of local government units, and other factors. It would also unburden LGUs of having to part with very scarce resources in order to pay for Philhealth premiums of citizens residing in their areas of responsibility.

It has been truly said that more than education, health services is a paramount need of our people. This cradle-to-the grave basic social service is desperately needed by our constituents. Senior citizens, the disabled and the indigents, many of whom are no longer of school age, are in continuous need of safety nets in the realm of vital health services from the government.

In view of these pressing considerations, the early approval of this bill is earnestly requested.


LUCY TORRES-GOMEZ
Representative
Fourth District of Leyte

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

Eighteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2977

Introduced by Representative Lucy Torres-Gomez

AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING MEMBERS' CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE
NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM (PHILHEALTH)
THROUGH THEIR INCLUSION IN THE ANNUAL GENERAL
APPROPRIATIONS ACT

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

SECTION 1. *Members' Premium Contributions to Philhealth.* – Premium contributions to the National Health Insurance Program (Philhealth) of all members, including those in the formal and informal sector (self-employed) and indigents, shall be fully subsidized by the national government.

SEC. 2. *Employer's Counterpart Contributions to Philhealth.* – In the private sector, employers shall continue paying the same monthly counterpart contributions to Philhealth as provided by law.

For the national government, it shall be mandatory for all government offices, agencies and instrumentalities to include the payment of their counterpart premium contributions in their respective annual appropriations. For local government units (LGUs), however, the

amount corresponding to the total employer counterpart premium payments of all LGUs nationwide shall be included in the appropriations for the Department of Health under the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 3. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within thirty (30) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Health (DOH) in coordination with the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (Philhealth) shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for its implementation.

SEC. 4. *Repealing Clause.* – The pertinent provisions Republic Act No. 11223, otherwise known as the “Universal Health Care Act,” of Republic Act No. 7875, otherwise known as the National Health Insurance Act of 1995, Republic Act 9241, R.A. No. 10606, otherwise known as the National Health Insurance Act of 2013, and other laws, decrees, rules and regulations which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 5. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication either in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,