

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 5469

Introduced by CIBAC Party-List Representatives
Eduardo "Bro. Eddie" C. Villanueva and Domingo C. Rivera

**AN ACT PROVIDING FOR MANDATORY FREE HEALTH
MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATION (HMO) PLAN COVERAGE TO
FACULTY AND NON-TEACHING PERSONNEL IN STATE
UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XIV, Section 5, Paragraph (5) of the 1987 Constitution mandates that "[t]he State shall assign the highest budgetary priority to education and ensure that teaching will attract and retain its rightful share of the best available talents through adequate remuneration and other means of job satisfaction and fulfillment." Towards this end, one of the efforts undertaken by the government is the implementation of an across-the-board increase in the salary schedule of civilian government personnel.

However, problems still persist with regard the provision of "adequate remuneration and other means of job satisfaction and fulfillment" to faculties and non-teaching personnel in state universities and colleges (SUCs). One of these problems is in the aspect of healthcare.

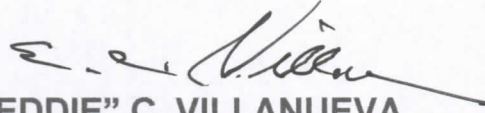
If the personnel were to suffer from a debilitating illness, limited PhilHealth coverage would only answer a fraction of the cost of treatment and the rest would still be shouldered out of the personnel's pocket. This is especially alarming considering a full-time lecturer classified as Instructor 1 in a state university usually only receives salary equivalent to Salary Grade 12 or around Php22,938 per month.

The strain of hundreds of thousands of pesos in hospital bills and their meager salaries would definitely take a toll on their standard of living and quality of life. An emergency of this sort may possibly even put them into enormous amounts of debt.

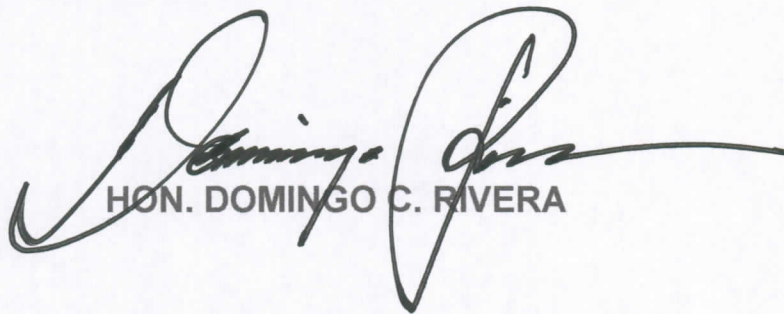
This bill seeks to provide faculty members and regular non-teaching personnel of SUCs with free mandatory health coverage provided by health maintenance organizations (HMOs). Under this bill, the Board of Regents of each SUC has the authority to decide on the form, coverage and terms of the HMO plan without any need of approval from other agencies and/or officers.

A free HMO coverage will not only increase the job satisfaction among SUC personnel, it will also ensure that a healthy pool of faculty and non-teaching personnel will be able to continuously and rigorously teach and shape the minds of younger generations.

The immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



HON. EDUARDO "BRO. EDDIE" C. VILLANUEVA



HON. DOMINGO C. RIVERA

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

- 1 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known as the "Free Health Card for all
2 State Universities and Colleges (SUC) Personnel Act."
3
- 4 **SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** – It is hereby the policy of the State to give priority
5 to education, science and technology, arts, culture, and sports to foster patriotism and
6 nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote total human liberation and
7 development. It is also the policy of the State to assign the highest budgetary priority
8 to education and ensure that teaching will attract and retain its rightful share of the
9 best available talents through adequate remuneration and other means of job
10 satisfaction and fulfillment. Towards this end, in order to protect the welfare of teaching
11 and non-teaching personnel, the State shall establish mandatory HMO coverage to
12 augment their healthcare coverage in case of health-related contingencies.
13
- 14 **SECTION 3. *Mandatory HMO Coverage.*** – All SUCs shall provide mandatory Health
15 Maintenance Organization (HMO) coverage to all full-time faculty and regular non-
16 teaching personnel of State Universities and Colleges (SUCs). For this purpose, the
17 Board of Regents of each SUC shall have the discretion to decide the form, coverage,
18 and terms of the services to be provided by an HMO.
19

1 Notwithstanding anything to the contrary, the approval and implementation of the
2 mandatory HMO coverage provided under this Act shall not require any approval from
3 other agencies or officials.

4
5 For the avoidance of doubt, the mandatory HMO coverage provided under this Act
6 shall be in addition to the existing health care program provided to all government
7 employees through the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation.

8
9 **SECTION 4. Appropriations.** – The amounts necessary to carry out the provisions of
10 this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA) under the
11 budgets of the particular SUCs.

12
13 **SECTION 5. Separability Clause.** – Any portion or provisions of this Act that may be
14 declared unconstitutional or invalid shall not have the effect of nullifying other portions
15 and provisions hereof as long as such remaining portions or provisions can still subsist
16 and be given effect in their entirety.

17
18 **SECTION 6. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations
19 and administrative regulations, or any parts thereof inconsistent herewith are hereby
20 revoked, repealed or modified accordingly.

21
22 **SECTION 7. Effectivity Clause.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
23 publication in at least two (2) national papers of general circulation.

24
25
26 **Approved,**