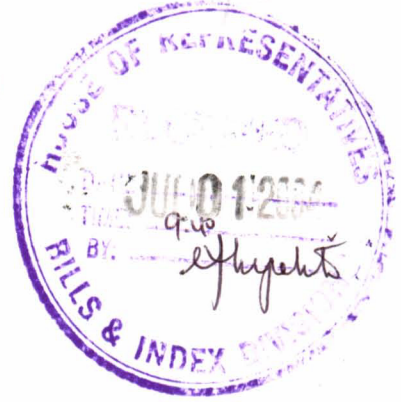


Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**THIRTEENTH CONGRESS**

First Regular Session

House Bill No. 721



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**Introduced by REP. JUDY J. SYJUCO**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The Constitution guarantees that the State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost. Furthermore, there shall be priority for the needs of the underprivileged sick, elderly, disabled, women and children.

Indeed, the most vital service sought and needed by the people is that pertaining to health care. It is the barometer of a nation's potential to achieve progress and the gauge to assure a country's ability to free itself from the bondage of poverty, knowing quite well that only a healthy populace could become a productive society.

Given the present situation in the country, the high cost of living spells out the reason why people have a propensity to ignore spending for health care services, and such tendency is evident to both the impoverished Filipinos as well as to average income earners.

In response to the need of public health service, the creation of the Philippine Health Insurance Program was set forth. The program aims to provide health insurance coverage and to ensure affordable and accessible health care services for all citizens of the Philippines.

However, the mere establishment of the program does not guarantee the achievement of its sublime purpose. According to PhilHealth, the nationwide membership to the program, together with the approved beneficiaries, is 6,334,320. Certainly, this is a dismal figure in view of the fact that the projected membership embraces the compulsory inclusion of the entire populace.

In view of the foregoing, amendment to RA 7875, otherwise known as National Health Insurance Act of 1995, is hereby proposed for the immediate and complete implementation of the program. Hence, passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

**JUDY J. SYJUCO**

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

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**AN ACT**  
**MANDATING THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL HEALTH**  
**INSURANCE PROGRAM' COMPULSORY COVERAGE FOR ALL FILIPINO**  
**RESIDENTS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT 7875 OTHERWISE**  
**KNOWN AS THE "NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE ACT OF 1995", AND FOR**  
**OTHER PURPOSES**

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

**SECTION 1.** Section 6, Article III of Republic Act No. 7875, is hereby amended to be read as follows:

Section 6. Coverage – All citizens of the Philippines shall be MANDATORY covered by the National Health Insurance Program. In accordance with the principles of universality and compulsory coverage enunciated in Sec 2 (b) and 2 (I) hereof, FULL AND COMPLETE implementation of the Program shall, [ furthermore, be gradual and phased in over a period of not more than fifteen (15) years: ] BE EFFECTED IMMEDIATELY.

[ Provided, That the Program shall not be made compulsory in certain provinces and cities until the Corporation shall be able to ensure that members in such localities shall have reasonable access to adequate and acceptable health care services. ]

**SECTION 2.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation. The publication shall not be later than seven (7) days after approval hereof.

Approved,