

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2889



Introduced by: HON. HERMINIA M. RAMIRO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The promotion of health is always an urgent business of society not only because it is the very foundation of an active and useful life but also the right of every Filipino. Cognizant of this reality, the Constitution explicitly provides that the State shall promote and protect the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.

This bill therefore seeks to amend Section 6 of Republic Act No. 7875 otherwise known as the National Health Insurance Act of 1995 to make all citizens of the Philippines covered under the National Health Insurance Program. This compulsory coverage is in full accord with the expressed constitutional mandate to make health accessible to the poorest of the poor.

It is a reality that health care is the most needed in the hierarchy of services to the Filipino people. For which reason, Republic Act no. 7875 was enacted to provide insurance coverage to certain sectors of our society almost a decade ago. As of now, only 6,334,320 have directly benefited from the law, which is only a tip of the iceberg if we compare it to the growing number of our countrymen in dire need of medical service.

It is therefore the paramount objective of this piece of legislation to make compulsory the coverage of national health insurance to benefit the poor people particularly those in the countryside to avail of health services.

In view of the foregoing reasons, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


HERMINIA M. RAMIRO
Representative
Second District, Misamis Occidental

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Introduced by: HON. HERMINIA M. RAMIRO

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMPULSORY
COVERAGE OF THE NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM,
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7875 OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS THE "NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE ACT OF 1995"

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

Section 1. Section 6 of Republic Act No. 7875 otherwise known as the National Health Insurance Act of 1995 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 6. Coverage. – All citizens of the Philippines shall be covered by the National Health Insurance Program. In accordance with the principles of universality and compulsory coverage enunciated in SEC. 2 (b) and (l) 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.]

Sec. 2. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication of the implementing rules in any newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,