

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

000 265
H. B. No. _____

Introduced by HONORABLE JUAN EDGARDO "SONNY" M. ANGARA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill aims to strengthen the role and functions of local government units in implementing universal health care system in the Philippines.

Section 11, Article XIII of the 1987 constitution states:

"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. There shall be priority for the needs of the under-privileged, sick, elderly, disabled, women and children. The State shall endeavor to provide free medical care to paupers."

As of 2006, statistics show that over 27.2 million Filipinos are below poverty line and who are subsisting on less than 41 pesos per day. It is also the poorest Filipinos that have infant mortality rate of 42 per 1,000 births, while the higher income groups are 19 per 1,000 births. The same trend can be observed in maternal mortality rates. The lowest income groups are also 1.4 times more likely to be positive for tuberculosis based on chest x-ray examination compared to the highest income groups.

Despite the government's efforts to bring health care closer to Filipinos by dispersing health workers and services especially in remote areas, the disparities in health outcomes still persist. Health inequity remains a foremost health issue in the Philippines, and as such, a change-in-health care system has become imperative to achieve effective and universal health care. Essential reforms in leadership and governance, financing, health workforce, health service delivery, information systems, and medical devices and pharmaceuticals are necessary if universal health care is ever to become a reality.

It is therefore imperative to define, establish and strengthen the indispensable role and functions of local government units on the delivery of health services in order to standardize the quality of services and thus ensure effective implementation of the universal health care system.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is urgently recommended.


JUAN EDGARDO "SONNY" M. ANGARA
Representative
Lone District, Province of Aurora

Introduced by Honorable JUAN EDGARDO "SONNY" M. ANGARA

AN ACT
STRENGTHENING THE ROLE AND FUNCTIONS OF THE LOCAL
GOVERNMENT UNITS IN IMPLEMENTING UNIVERSAL
HEALTH CARE SYSTEM AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "*Universal Health Development Act of 2010.*"

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - Consistent with the policy of the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them, the State recognizes that health, which is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity, is a fundamental human right and that the attainment of the highest possible level of health is a most important social goal and the realization of which requires the action of many other social and economic sectors in addition to the health sector.

In relation thereto, the State shall be responsible in ensuring that adequate health and social measures are accessible and provided to the people to enable them to lead a socially and economically productive life.

SEC. 3. *Ensuring Delivery of Basic Health Services.* - Every city or municipality shall ensure that primary health care services are available in its area of jurisdiction, and therefore shall establish health centers in every barangay, especially to underserved or poor communities to ensure delivery of basic health services. It shall assign at least one doctor, a nurse, a dentist and a midwife in every city or municipal health center.

SEC. 4. *Local Government Health Insurance Benefits for Indigents.* – Every city and municipality shall ensure that all indigents in its area of jurisdiction shall be covered by the local health insurance plan to enable them to avail of the benefits under Republic Act 7875, as amended, otherwise known as the “*National Health Insurance Act of 1995.*” It shall facilitate the enrolment of indigents with PHILHEALTH in its area of jurisdiction, without cost.

The local health insurance plan coverage shall be continued without cost to the indigents until such time that their economic status improves rendering them already capable of paying their own health insurance premiums.

SEC. 5. *Local Health Insurance Program Allocation.* – Every city and municipality shall allocate at least thirty (30%) percent of its health budget for the health insurance program for indigents.

Every province shall allocate thirty (30%) percent of its health budget which shall be apportioned for the health insurance program for indigents of every city and municipality within its jurisdiction.

SEC. 6. *Improvement of Public Health Care Facilities.* – Every local government unit, in coordination with the Department of Health, shall improve the facilities and equipment of its health centers and public hospitals to ensure the delivery of efficient and competitive basic health care services. It shall set-up a unified and formalized referral system to facilitate a more efficient health care delivery services.

SEC. 7. *Efficient and Qualified Health Care Providers and Quality Health Services.* – Local government units, in coordination with the Department of Health (DOH and other government agencies, shall set-up a standard of qualification and remuneration for each category of health care personnel deployed in their health care facilities.

SEC. 8. *Health Information System and Management.* – The Department of Health shall develop and integrated Health Information System by identifying, collecting and analyzing major health data necessary for the implementation of the universal health care system, including among others, burden of diseases, actual costs of health services, historical utilization and budget for health services in the national, regional, provincial, city and municipal levels.

Local government units shall utilize this Health Information System and support the use of information system and technology in health education and in health care service delivery.

SEC. 9. *Internal Revenue Allocation for Health Services.* – Local government units shall allocate at least ten (10%) percent of their Internal Revenue Allocation (IRA) for health services.

SEC. 10. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days after the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Health shall, in coordination with the Secretary of Interior and Local Government, issue such rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC 11. *Annual Review.* – The Department of Health shall conduct an annual review of the local health care delivery system and shall submit annual recommendations and reports to both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 12. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision or part of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 13. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules and regulations, and issuances, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 14. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,