

HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES  
House Bill No. **3544**

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Introduced by: MA. THERESA B. BONOAN-DAVID  
4<sup>th</sup> District, City of Manila

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Article XIII, Section 11 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution in no uncertain terms lays down the national health policy of our country in this manner: *"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."*

Unfortunately, it would seem that the State has failed, and continues to fail, in performing the above-quoted Constitutional imperative. In fact, health financing is not the government's priorities. It is unimaginable how Filipinos, who are everyday below the poverty threshold in grappling with the hardships of economic realities, will be able to afford a decent healthcare service for themselves and their families.

Thus, this proposed measure mandates that every Filipino be entitled to mandatory universal health care coverage by their immediate inclusion and membership in the Philippine Health Insurance system which will entitle them to all the healthcare benefits provided under Republic Act No. 7875. The mandatory universal coverage mandated by this bill shall be supported by premium payments made by the National Government to the PhilHealth, which shall be included annually in the General Appropriations Act, without prejudice to other sources of contribution.

In view of the foregoing, early passage of this bill is earnestly requested.

This is a House of Representative counterpart bill to one filed in the Senate by Senator Mar Roxas.

  
MA. THERESA BONOAN-DAVID  
4<sup>th</sup> District, City of Manila

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**AN ACT TO ENSURE THAT EVERY FILIPINO IS GRANTED  
WITH BASIC HEALTHCARE SERVICES, PROVIDING FOR THE  
PURPOSE A MANDATORY UNIVERSAL HEALTHCARE  
COVERAGE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. - This Act shall be known as the *"Mandatory  
Universal Healthcare Coverage of Every Filipino Act."*

SECTION. 2. Declaration of Policy. - Pursuant to Section 15, Article II of  
the 1987 Constitution the State hereby declares the policy of protecting  
and promoting the right to health of the people and instilling health  
consciousness among them. Towards this end, 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 every Filipino at affordable cost.

SECTION. 3. Mandatory Universal Healthcare Coverage of Every Filipino.  
- Every Filipino shall be entitled to mandatory universal healthcare  
coverage by their immediate and automatic inclusion to Philippine Health  
Insurance coverage and membership as provided for under Republic Act  
No. 7875 otherwise known as the "National Health Insurance Act of  
1995;" Accordingly, all the benefits under Republic Act No. 7875 shall  
also be made applicable and available to every Filipino citizen, *Provided,*  
That such universal coverage shall be funded by the National  
Government through premium payments to the Philippine Health

Insurance Corporation, which shall be included annually in the General Appropriations Act, without prejudice to other sources of contribution.

SEC. 4. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - The Secretary of Health, in coordination with the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PHIC), shall within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 5. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision or part hereof, is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 6. *Repealing Clause.* - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or is inconsistent with the provision of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

SECTION 7. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

*Approved.*