

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. 4590

Introduced by: REPRESENTATIVE SALVIO B. FORTUNO

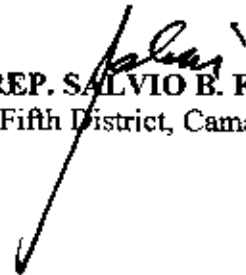
EXPLANATORY NOTE

The health of the citizens certainly determines the energy and vigour of the nation. It is in the light that framers of the 1987 Constitution explicitly includes the mandate to protect and promote the right to health of every Filipino and instill health consciousness among them. It is a well-known fact however that many people due to extreme poverty, particularly those in the lower echelon of our society die without even seeing a doctor. They give utmost priority to buying goods that will satisfy their empty stomachs before buying medicines or seeing a doctor to cure their illness.

The government effort to encourage doctors to go the barrios will come to naught if the people do not have anything to buy the prescribed medicines or have nothing to spend for their confinement in the hospitals. Most people will tend to ignore doctor's advice given the economic reality in our midst.

It is therefore imperative for the government to launch a mandatory healthcare coverage program that will provide for healthcare benefits to every Filipino.

In view of the foregoing reasons, the approval of this important piece of legislation is earnestly sought.


REP. SALVIO B. FORTUNO
Fifth District, Camarines Sur

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Introduced by: **REPRESENTATIVE SALVIO B. FORTUNO**

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE MANDATORY UNIVERSAL HEALTHCARE COVERAGE
PROGRAM AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

*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 “*Philippine Mandatory Universal Healthcare Coverage Program of 2011.*”

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared to be the policy of the State to protect and promote the right to health of every Filipino and instill health consciousness among them. Toward this end, the State shall adopt a comprehensive approach to healthcare program that shall make available healthcare coverage to all citizens.

SEC. 3. *Mandatory Healthcare Coverage Program.* – All Filipino citizens shall be entitled to the mandatory universal healthcare coverage benefit by causing their automatic inclusion to the Philippine Healthcare membership under Republic Act No. 7875 otherwise known as the “National Health Insurance Act of 1995.”

SEC. 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Secretary of the Department of Health, in coordination with the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PHIC), shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations within sixty (60) days after the effectivity of this Act.

SEC. 5. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to implement this Act shall be charged against the unexpended appropriations for the current year. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary shall be included in the annual appropriations of the Department of Health.

SEC. 6. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in any newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,