

CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES
SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
House Bill No. 1983



Introduced by Representatives
GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO and DIOSDADO MACAPAGAL ARROYO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

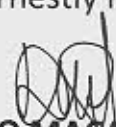
As of 2006, statistics shows that over 27.2 million Filipinos are below poverty line and who are subsisting on less than 41 pesos per day. It is also the poorest Filipinos that have infant mortality rate of 42 per 1,000 births, while the higher income groups are at 19 per 1,000 births. The same trend 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 effort 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.

This measure provides for automatic enrolment of all Filipinos as opposed to the current scheme of enrolment in PhilHealth. It seeks to have mandatory universal health coverage by immediate and automatic enrollment of all Filipinos which shall be funded by the national government through the inclusion of the required contribution in the General Appropriations Act annually.

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


GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO
Second District, Pampanga


DIOSDADO MACAPAGAL ARROYO
Second District, Camarines Sur

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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”.

SEC. 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.

SEC. 3. *Mandatory Universal Healthcare Coverage for Every Filipino.* - Every Filipino citizen shall be entitled to mandatory universal healthcare coverage by their immediate and automatic inclusion to Philippine Healthcare Insurance coverage and membership as provided for under Republic Act No. 7875 otherwise known as the “National Health Insurance Act of 1995”; Accordingly, all 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 Appropriation 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.

SEC.5. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC.6. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or other issuance inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,