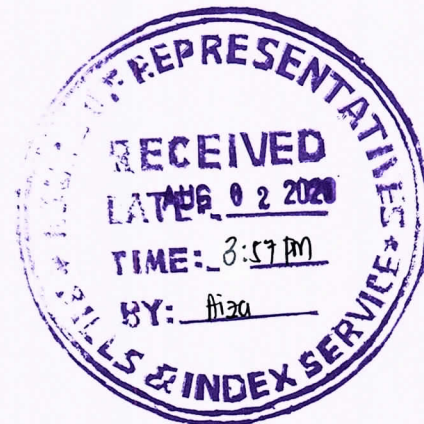


REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 7223



Introduced by **HON. KRISTINE ALEXIE B. TUTOR**
Third District, Bohol

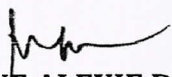
EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act No. 11223 or the Universal Health Care Act of 2019 is seen as a big leap towards reforming the country's health care system as it ensures all Filipinos access to comprehensive healthcare services and significantly reducing the out of pocket expenses by individuals and their families. The enactment of this landmark measure is cognizant to the right to health of every Filipino as mandated by the Constitution.

Recently, the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) identified certain provisions in the law which hinders the flexibility in the determination, fixing and reduction of published case rates/packages. To address this, the proposed measure seeks to amend Sections 9 and 34 of the Universal Health Care Act to enable PhilHealth to adjust the packages subject to the review, assessment, and recommendation of the Health Technology Assessment Council.

As our country continues to battle the pervasive effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, all the more should the benefits of the Universal Health Care Act continually pour towards our marginalized citizens.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of the bill is earnestly sought.


REP. KRISTINE ALEXIE B. TUTOR

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AN ACT
AMENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11223, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS THE UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE ACT

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

1 **SECTION 1.** Section 9 of Republic Act No. 11223 or the Universal Health Care Act
2 is hereby amended to read as follows:

3
4 “Sec. 9. Entitlement to Benefits. – Every member shall be granted
5 immediate eligibility for health benefit package under the Program:
6 Provided, That PhilHealth Identification Card shall not be required in
7 the availment of any health service: Provided, further, That no co-
8 payment shall be charged for services rendered in basic or ward
9 accommodation: Provided, furthermore, That co-payments and co-
10 insurance for amenities in public hospitals shall be regulated by the
11 DOH and PhilHealth: Provided, ~~[finally]~~ **FURTHERMORE**, That the
12 ~~[current]~~ **EXISTING** PhilHealth ~~[package]~~ **COVERAGE** for members
13 shall not be reduced: **PROVIDED, FINALLY, THAT THE AMOUNTS**
14 **UNDER EACH BENEFIT PACKAGE SHALL BE SUBJECT TO THE**
15 **REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT OF THE HEALTH TECHNOLOGY**
16 **ASSESSMENT COUNCIL PURSUANT TO SECTION 34 OF THIS ACT.”**

17
18 **SEC. 2.** Section 34 of Republic Act No. 11223 is hereby amended to read as follows:

19 “Sec. 34. Health Technology Assessment (HTA). –

20 (a) x x x.

21 (b) x x x.

22 (c) The HTAC, to be composed of health experts, shall be created within
23 the DOH and supported by a Secretariat and a Technical Unit for
24 Policy, Planning and Evaluation with evidence generation and
25 validation capacity. The HTAC shall: (1) facilitate provision of
26 financing and/or coverage recommendations on health
27 technologies to be financed by DOH and PhilHealth; (2) oversee and
28 coordinate the HTA process within DOH and PhilHealth; and (3)
29 review and assess existing DOH and PhilHealth benefit packages
30 **AND RECOMMEND APPROPRIATE AND REASONABLE**

1 **AMOUNTS PER PACKAGE BASED ON PREVAILING**
2 **TECHNOLOGIES AND/OR TREATMENT.** Within five (5) years
3 after the establishment and effective operation of the HTAC, it shall
4 transition into an independent entity separate from the DOH,
5 attached to DOST.

6 (d) x x x.

7 (e) x x x.”
8

9 **SEC. 3. Separability Clause.** – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or
10 unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full
11 force and effect.
12

13 **SEC. 4. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, executive orders or rules and
14 regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed
15 or modified accordingly
16

17 **SEC. 5. Effectivity Clause.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
18 publication in the Official Gazette or in any newspaper of the general circulation.

Approved,