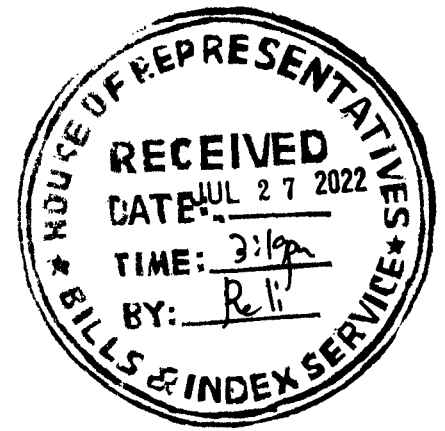


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. **2528**



INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE MARISSA “DEL MAR” P. MAGSINO

AN ACT

EXPANDING THE SERVICE COVERAGE UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11223, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE ACT”, TO INCLUDE DIAGNOSTIC, LABORATORY AND OTHER MEDICAL EXAMINATION SERVICES WHICH OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS (OFWS) ARE REQUIRED TO UNDERGO FOR THE PURPOSE OF THEIR EMPLOYMENT ABROAD

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) have got to be our nation’s modern-day heroes. In search of greener pastures, OFWs leave their homes and families on the promise of a better life and future. It has, in fact, become a normal sight to see in airports and seaports, the great migration of Filipinos who are willing to make the ultimate sacrifice of packing their lives in suitcases, kissing their loved ones goodbyes, and shedding tears of longing, in order to earn a living.

Much of the stories we hear are the struggles they encounter when they assume their respective employment duties in foreign lands. The stories often fail to mention the burdens they have to carry in order to secure their employment contracts. These are the stories that this humble representation has, in her quest to come to the aid of our modern-day heroes, has heard, and now seeks to offer succor to.

Application processes entail financial which necessitate the selling of livelihood and belongings and even taking out loans for. And this is exactly what this measure seeks to provide relief from. This bill seeks to amend Republic Act No. 11223, otherwise known as the “Universal Health Care Act”, so as to embrace even the diagnostic, laboratory, and

other medical examination services which Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) are required to undergo for the purpose of their employment abroad. These are expenses which many applicants have to endure in order to secure their employment overseas; the same costs which usually stand in the way of hopeful applicants who cannot raise the funds in order to undergo the required services.

It is high time the State gives back to our OFWs who, undeniably, have contributed so much to the growth and stability of our economy. It is their remittances which they have toiled day and night to earn, that have helped fund many of our government projects. It should thus be the State's priority to ensure that it offers assistance to financial burdens of OFWs whenever possible and appropriate.

In view of the forgoing, approval of this proposed measure is most earnestly sought.


MARISSA "DEL MAR" P. MAGSINO

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AN ACT

**EXPANDING THE SERVICE COVERAGE UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO.
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TO INCLUDE DIAGNOSTIC, LABORATORY AND OTHER MEDICAL
EXAMINATION SERVICES WHICH OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS
(OFWS) ARE REQUIRED TO UNDERGO FOR THE PURPOSE OF THEIR
EMPLOYMENT ABROAD**

1 Section 1. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to affirm labor as a
2 primary economic force, it shall protect the rights and promote the welfare of Overseas
3 Filipino Workers (OFWs) by providing them with necessary aid and assistance in their
4 employment applications.

5 In ensuring that we repay our debt of gratitude to Overseas Filipino Workers
6 (OFWs) who are modern day heroes, and whose remittances fuel much of our economy,
7 the State shall endeavor to lighten the financial burden of their employment applications
8 through helpful government programs.

9 Sec. 2. Section 6 of Republic Act No. 11223, otherwise known as the “Universal
10 Health Care Act”, shall be hereby amended to read as follows:

11 **Section 6. Service Coverage.** -

12 (a) Every Filipino shall be granted immediate
13 eligibility and access to preventive, promotive,
14 curative, rehabilitative, and palliative care for
15 medical, dental, mental, and emergency health
16 services, delivered either as population-based or
17 individual-based health services: *Provided, That*
18 the goods and services to be included shall be

determined through a fair and transparent HTA process;

(B) EVERY OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKER (OFW) WHO, BY REASON OF HIS/HER EMPLOYMENT APPLICATION, SHALL BE REQUIRED TO UNDERGO DIAGNOSTIC, LABORATORY AND OTHER MEDICAL EXAMINATION SERVICES, FOR EMPLOYMENT ABROAD, SHALL BE GRANTED IMMEDIATE ELIGIBILITY AND ACCESS THERETO: PROVIDED, THAT THE SAID TESTS ARE DONE AND UNDERGONE IN PHILHEALTH ACCREDITED HOSPITALS, CENTERS, FACILITIES AND/OR SIMILAR ESTABLISHMENTS;

[(b)] (C) Within two (2) years from the effectivity of this Act, PhilHealth shall implement a comprehensive outpatient benefit, including outpatient drug benefit and emergency medical services in accordance with the recommendations of the Health Technology Assessment Council (HTAC) created under Section 34 hereof;

[(c)] (D) The DOH and the local government units (LGUs) shall endeavor to provide a health care delivery system that will afford every Filipino a primary care provider that would act as the navigator, coordinator, and initial and continuing point of contact in the health care delivery system: *Provided*, That except in emergency or serious cases and when proximity is a concern, access to higher levels of care shall be coordinated by the primary care provider; and

[(d)] (E) Every Filipino shall register with a public or private primary care provider of choice. The DOH shall promulgate the guidelines on the licensing of primary care providers and the registration of every Filipino to a primary care provider.

Sec. 3. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within six (6) months from the approval of this Act, the Department of Health (DOH), the Philippine Health Insurance

1 Corporation (PhilHealth) in coordination with other implementing agencies, shall
2 formulate rules and guidelines as may be necessary for the proper implementation and
3 enforcement of this Act.

4 Sec. 4. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, letters of instruction, resolutions,
5 orders, or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby
6 repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

7 Sec. 5. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
8 publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,