

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 11086

Introduced by **HON. BRIAN RAYMUND S. YAMSUAN**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The rising cases of mental health disorders in the Philippines is a pressing public health issue. Data from the World Health Organization (WHO) indicates that 11.3% to 11.6% of Filipinos are affected by mental health issues, with the incidence increasing at an average rate of 2.0% annually. This translates to a significant rise from approximately 7 million to 12.5 million Filipinos diagnosed with mental health conditions between 1990 and 2019.¹

Mental health services need not only be available—they should also be affordable—especially for those living below the poverty line. Thus, Congress, through Republic Act No. 11036 or the Mental Health Act, has tasked the Department of Health to “coordinate with the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) to ensure that insurance packages equivalent to those covering physical disorders of comparable impact to the patient, as measured by Disability-Adjusted Life Year or other methodologies, are available to patients affected by mental health conditions”.²

Notably, PhilHealth has made substantial progress by initially covering certain mental health disorders under its inpatient case rate. Further recognizing the gap in accessible outpatient care, PhilHealth also introduced an outpatient mental health benefits package in October 2023, covering consultations, diagnostic follow-ups, psychoeducation, and psychosocial support through accredited outpatient mental health facilities.³ This outpatient package marks a promising step in the phased

¹CPBRD Policy Brief No. 2023 -02: Underscoring the mental health agenda in the Philippines. Congressional policy and budget research department house of representatives Available from: https://cpbrd.congress.gov.ph/images/PDF%20Attachments/CPBRD%20Policy%20Brief/PB2023-02_Underscoring_the_Mental_Health_Agenda_in_the_Philippines.pdf

² Rep. Act No. 11036 (2017), § 30(f). Mental Health Act.

³ PhilHealth Circ. No. 2023-0018 (2023)

transition towards a comprehensive outpatient and inpatient mental health coverage envisioned by the Universal Health Care (UHC) Act. While we laud the efforts of PhilHealth, our goal is to have a unified mental health benefits package that is accessible to all, rather than piecemeal and limited programs that remain vulnerable to changes in administrative priorities and funding limitations.

This bill therefore seeks to institutionalize PhilHealth's inpatient and outpatient mental health benefits program. Under this measure, PhilHealth, in consultation with the Department of Health (DOH) and key stakeholders—such as professional societies, patient advocacy groups, and healthcare providers—will develop an affordable comprehensive benefit package for individuals with mental health disorders. By legislating a program that clearly defines the benefits for both inpatient and outpatient mental health care, we aim to establish a national healthcare framework that is both administratively and financially prepared to address the growing mental health needs of Filipinos.

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



BRIAN RAYMUND S. YAMSUAN
Bicol Saro Partylist

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AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE PHILHEALTH INPATIENT AND OUTPATIENT
MENTAL HEALTH BENEFITS PACKAGE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. — This Act shall be known as the “Comprehensive Mental Health Benefit Act”

Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy. — The State affirms the basic right of all Filipinos to mental health as well as the fundamental rights of people who require health services.

The State commits itself in promoting the well-being of people by ensuring that mental health is valued, promoted, and protected; mental health conditions are treated and prevented; timely, affordable, high quality, and culturally-appropriate mental health care is made available to the public; mental health service are free from coercion and accountable to the service users; and persons affected by mental health conditions are able to exercise the full range of human rights, and participate fully in society and at work free from stigmatization and discrimination.

The State shall comply strictly with its obligations under the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and all other relevant international and regional human rights, conventions and declarations. The applicability of Republic Act No.7277, as amended, otherwise known as the “Magna Carta for Disabled Persons”, as well as Republic Act No. 11036 or the “Mental Health Act” to persons with mental health conditions, as defined herein, is expressly recognized.

Sec. 3. Definition of Terms. —As used in this Act, the following terms are defined as follows:

- (a) Mental Health (MH) - refers to a state of mental well-being that enables people to cope with the stresses of life, realize their abilities, learn well and work well, and contribute to their community. It is an integral component of health and well-being that underpins our individual and collective abilities to make decisions, build relationships and shape the world we live in;
- (b) Mental Health Condition — Mental Health Condition refers to a neurologic or psychiatric condition characterized by the existence of a recognizable, clinically-significant disturbance in an individual's cognition, emotional regulation, or behavior that reflects a genetic or acquired dysfunction in the neurological, psychosocial, or developmental process underlying mental functioning. The term covers mental disorders.
The determination of neurologic and psychiatric conditions shall be based on scientifically-accepted medical nomenclature and best available scientific and medical evidence;
- (c) Mental Disorder — A mental disorder is characterized by a clinically significant disturbance in an individual's cognition, emotional regulation, or behavior. It is usually associated with distress or impairment in important areas of functioning.

Sec. 4. Comprehensive Mental Health Benefit Package. — Within one (1) year from the effectivity of this Act, the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), in consultation with the Department of Health (DOH), along with key stakeholders such as professional societies, patient organization, and health facilities, shall develop an affordable and accessible comprehensive mental health benefit package for all Filipinos with mental health conditions. The package shall ensure that all Filipinos, regardless of income level, can access high-quality, continuous mental health care that meets international standards of comprehensive mental health support.

The benefit package shall provide coverage for a full range of mental health disorders and shall encompass both inpatient and outpatient services. Specifically, it shall include emergency mental health services, psychiatric and neurological consultations and treatments, and services under the Mental Health Gap Action Program (mhGAP).

Sec. 5 Implementing Rules and Regulations. — The Philhealth and the Department of Health, in consultation with key stakeholders, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

Sec. 6. Appropriations. — The amount necessary to implement this Act shall be charged against the total revenue of PhilHealth, composed of premium contributions from direct contributors and premium subsidies of the government for the indirect contributors.

Sec. 7. Separability Clause. — If any provision or part of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

Sec. 8. Repealing Clause. — All laws, executive orders, issuances, circulars, rules and regulations, inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Sec. 9. Effectivity. — This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,