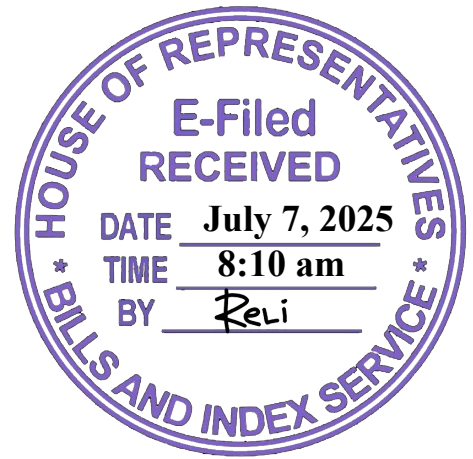


REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1329



Introduced by **HONORABLE RAMON JOLO B. REVILLA III,**
HONORABLE LANI MERCADO-REVILLA, and
HONORABLE BRYAN B. REVILLA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to amend Sections 4, 9, and 10 of Republic Act No. 11223, otherwise known as the “Universal Health Care Act” to exempt Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) from the mandatory payment of premium contributions to the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth). It shall also require that they only be registered as indirect contributors where payment of premium shall be subsidized by the government.

Our OFWs are hailed as modern-day heroes as they sacrifice their personal comfort and safety to secure a better future for their families. According to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), there are about 2.16 million OFWs deployed globally.¹ They contributed remittances amounting to 8.5% to the country’s gross domestic product (GDP) which translated to US\$33.5 billion — 2.9% higher than thenUS\$32.5 billion remitted in 2022.²

¹ PSA. Survey on Overseas Filipinos. Data retrieved from <https://psa.gov.ph/statistics/survey/labor-and-employment/survey-overseas-filipinos>. Dated 13 September 2024

² Daily Tribune. OFWs: Modern-day heroes shaping Phl economy. Information retrieved from <https://tribune.net.ph/2024/07/21/ofws-modern-day-heroes-shaping-phl-economy>. Dated 22 July 2024

Although hailed as heroes, they face a challenge that our own government has mandatory imposed on them.

Under the enactment of Republic Act No. 11223, all OFWs were included as direct contributors in funding the National Health Insurance Program (NHIP) wherein they are mandated to fully pay the premium contributions at specific rates. With the regional conflicts in some parts of the world contributing to higher inflation rate, many OFWs often face stagnant wages and increasing costs of living, further exacerbated by the burden of mandatory contributions imposed by the PhilHealth.

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



RAMON JOLO B. REVILLA III



LANI MERCADO-REVILLA



BRYAN B. REVILLA

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(f) Direct contributors refer to those who have the capacity to pay premiums, are gainfully employed and are bound by an employer-employee relationship, or self-earning, professional practitioners,

~~[migrant workers including their qualified dependents,]~~ lifetime members.

***PROVIDED*, THAT MIGRANT WORKERS OR OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS SHALL BE REGISTERED AS INDIRECT CONTRIBUTORS UNDER PARAGRAPH HEREOF.**

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(V) MIGRANT WORKER REFERS TO LAND-BASED OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS (OFWS); SEAFARERS AND OTHER SEA-BASED WORKERS; FILIPINOS WITH DUAL CITIZENSHIP IN ACCORDANCE WITH REPUBLIC ACT 9225, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “CITIZENSHIP RETENTION AND REACQUISITION ACT OF 2003”; FILIPINOS LIVING ABROAD; OVERSEAS FILIPINOS IN DISTRESSED; AND OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS NOT PREVIOUSLY CLASSIFIED ELSEWHERE.”

SEC. 2. Section 9 of Republic Act No. 11223 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“**Sec. 9. *Entitlement to Benefits.*** — Every member shall be granted immediate eligibility for health benefit package under the Program. *Provided,* That failed PhilHealth Identification Card shall not be required in the availment of any health service. *Provided further,* That no co-payment shall be charged for services rendered in basic or reward accommodation. *Provided furthermore,* That co-payments and co-insurance for amenities in public hospitals shall be regulated

regulated by the DOH and PhilHealth. *Provided finally*, That the current PhilHealth package for members shall not be reduced.

PhilHealth shall provide additional Program benefits for their direct contributors, where applicable. *Provided*, That failure to pay premiums shall not prevent the enjoyment of any Program benefit. *Provided further*, That employers and self-employed direct contributors shall be required to pay all missed contributions with an interest, compounded monthly, of at least three per centum (3%) for employers and not exceeding one and one-half percent (1.5%) for self-earning, **AND** professional practitioners~~[-and migrant workers]~~.

SEC. 3. Section 10 of Republic Act No. 11223 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Sec. 10. Premium Contributions. — For direct contributors, premium rates shall be in accordance with the following schedule, and monthly income floor and ceiling:

Year	Premium Rate	Income Floor	Income Ceiling
2019	2.75%	P10,000.00	P50,000.00
2020	3.00%	P10,000.00	P60,000.00
2021	[3.50%] 3.25%	P10,000.00	P70,000.00
2022	[4.00%] 3.50%	P10,000.00	P80,000.00
2023	[4.50%] 3.75%	P10,000.00	P90,000.00
2024	[5.00%] 4.00%	P10,000.00	P100,000.00
2025	[5.00%] 4.25%	P10,000.00	P100,000.00

Provided, That for direct contributors, premium subsidies shall be gradually adjusted and included annually in the General Appropriations Act

1 (GAA). *Provided further*, That the funds shall be released to PhilHealth. *Provided*
2 *furthermore*, That the DOH, in coordination with PhilHealth, may request
3 Congress to appropriate supplemental funding to meet targeted milestones of this
4 Act. *Provided finally*, That for every increase in the rate of contribution of direct
5 contributors and premium subsidy of their indirect contributors, field health shall
6 provide for a corresponding increase in benefits.

7
8 **IN THE EVENT OF A STATE OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY OR**
9 **PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY, OR STATE OF NATIONAL**
10 **CALAMITY, THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES, UPON**
11 **RECOMMENDATION OF THE PHILHEALTH BOARD AFTER**
12 **CONSULTATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS, MAY SUSPEND THE**
13 **INCREASE IN PREMIUM CONTRIBUTION RATES PROVIDED**
14 **UNDER THIS SECTION. THE MANDATED INCREASE SHALL BE**
15 **IMPLEMENTED UPON THE LIFTING OF THE STATE OF NATIONAL**
16 **EMERGENCY, OR PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY, OR STATE OF**
17 **NATIONAL CALAMITY. ALL SUBSEQUENT SCHEDULED**
18 **INCREASES IN CONTRIBUTION RATES SHALL BE IMPLEMENTED**
19 **IN THE SUCCEEDING YEARS ACCORDINGLY.”**

20
21 **SEC. 4. *Continuity of Benefits.*** — Nothing in this Act shall be construed
22 to eliminate or diminish any benefits or entitlements already granted to members
23 of PhilHealth.

24
25 **SEC. 5. *Separability Clause.*** — If any provision of this Act is declared
26 unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not so declared shall remain in
27 full force and effect.

1 **SEC. 6. *Repealing Clause.*** — All laws, decrees, executive orders,
2 memorandum, and other administrative issuance or parts thereof which are
3 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby modified, superseded, or
4 repealed accordingly.

5
6 **SEC. 7. *Effectivity Clause.*** — This Act shall take fifteen (15) days afterw
7 its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper or general circulation.

Approved,