

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2239



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

**AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR FREE ANNUAL MEDICAL CHECK-UP FOR FILIPINOS AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to ensure that each Filipino shall have access to annual medical check-up that is free of charge in any government hospital or institution, to promote their right to quality health care services and prevent disease, disability, and death. This measure follows the wisdom behind the old adage: prevention is better than cure.

Health is a basic human right guaranteed by the 1987 Constitution. Article II, Section 15 provides: "The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill consciousness among them. Further, Article XIII, Section 11 adds: "The State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health, and other services available to all the people at affordable cost. There shall be priority for the needs of the underprivileged, sick, elderly, disabled, women, and children."

Over the years, health policies in the Philippines have evolved in response to increasing health demands. However, many problems besetting our country's health care system remain. According to a review of the Philippines' health system, many Filipinos still suffer diseases that are preventable and treatable with cost-effective interventions.¹ However, in 2023, 48.5% of registered deaths were not medically

¹ Dayrit, M.M., Lagrada, L.P., Picazo, O.F., Pons, M.C. & Villaverde, M.C. (2018). The Philippines health system review. *Health Systems in Transition*, 8 (2), World Health Organization. Regional Office for

attended by a health care provider.² With the passage of this bill, we hope to reduce the number of deaths by making checkups more accessible.

The Universal Healthcare Law recognizes the importance of primary healthcare, including preventive care, to which medical checkups fall under. However, it does not guarantee that every single health expense will be made free. A 2019 study conducted by PhilCare found that nearly half of the Filipinos were “not sure if they can afford the cost of regular medical check-ups.”³ It added that the Philippines is the second most expensive country in terms of medical expenses in Southeast Asia as concluded by the Mercer Marsh Benefits 2019 Medical Trends Around the World report. Further, a survey conducted by advisory company Willis Towers Watson revealed that medical costs in the Philippines are projected to increase by double digits in 2025.⁴

While this measure is intended for the entire nation, its urgency is evident in communities like Parañaque City. Home to a little over 700,000 people in 2024⁵, it faces the same challenges many areas experience: increasing costs of healthcare services and significant disparities in access to quality medical services. Free annual medical checkups will give families access to essential preventive and promotive care, benefiting not only Parañaqueños but every Filipino across the country.

Considering the foregoing reasons, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


BRIAN RAYMUND S. YAMSUAN
Representative
2nd District of Parañaque

South-East Asia. <https://iris.who.int/handle/10665/274579>.

²https://psa.gov.ph/system/files/vsd/1_2023%20Deaths_Special%20Release_ccv_vsd_pmmj_mlb-signed.pdf

³ <https://www.philstar.com/business/2019/07/05/1932014/philippines-healthcare-unaffordable>

⁴<https://www.wtco.com/en-ph/news/2024/11/philippines-healthcare-benefit-costs-projected-to-continue-its-double-digit-increase-in-2025>;<https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/topstories/nation/932146/ph-healthcare-costs-seen-to-rise-in-2025-wtw-survey/story/>

⁵<https://mb.com.ph/2025/07/20/muntinlupa-other-ncr-lgus-total-population-reaches-14-million>

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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 “*Free Annual Medical Check-Up Act.*”

SECTION 2. Declaration of Principle. – It is the policy of the State to support and promote the right to health by enhancing programs which focus on preventive and curative medicine that advance the health and well-being of Filipinos and prevent disease, disability, and death. Pursuant thereto, Filipinos shall be entitled to an annual medical check-up that is free of charge in any government hospital and institution.

SECTION 3. Coverage. – All Filipino Citizens, by virtue of their membership in the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) mandated under Republic Act No. 11223, or the “Universal Health Care Law”, shall be entitled to the applicable benefits under the Philippine Health Insurance Program.

Members shall be entitled to a free annual medical check-up. For the purposes of this Act, “annual medical check-up” shall, at the minimum, include a consultation, physical examination, and routine laboratory/diagnostic examinations, namely, complete blood count (CBC), lipid profile, fasting blood sugar, chest x-ray, and urinalysis. The laboratory and diagnostic tests shall be expanded, subject to the availability of PhilHealth funds.

SECTION 4. Schedule of Free Medical Check-Up. – To promote overall health, identify risk factors, and ensure early diagnosis of diseases, PhilHealth shall establish a system for the regular scheduling and provision of free annual medical check-ups.

SECTION 5. Appropriations. – The amount necessary to implement this Act shall be charged against the PhilHealth funds.

SECTION 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – The Department of Health shall, in coordination with PhilHealth, promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act not later than ninety (90) days from its effectivity.

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

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

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

Approved,