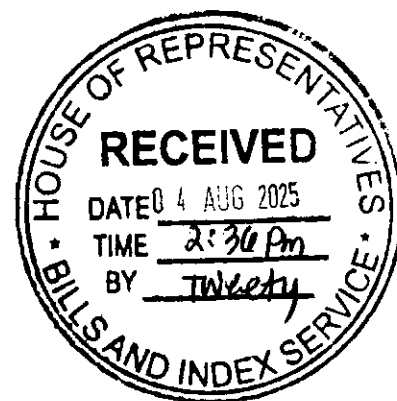


TWENTIETH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 2933

Introduced by Rep. CARMELO G. LAZATIN, JR.

AN ACT
EXPANDING THE PRIMARY CARE PACKAGE UNDER PHILHEALTH TO
INCLUDE BENEFIT PACKAGE FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Many individuals suffer from mental challenges but opt to keep to themselves for fear of being stigmatized or discriminated. In the Philippines, mental disorders affect an estimated 11.3% to 11.6% of the population or about 12.5 million Filipinos suffering from various mental health conditions, predominantly depression and anxiety.¹

While most of the health programs of the government are geared toward improving physical health and treatment of various diseases, there is a dearth of mental health services including hospitals and facilities in the country for individuals facing mental health challenges.

In the Philippines, "there are only two tertiary care psychiatric hospitals: the National Center for Mental Health in Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila (4200 beds) and the Mariveles Mental Hospital in Bataan, Luzon (500 beds). There are 12 smaller satellite hospitals affiliated with the National Center for Mental Health which are located throughout the country."²

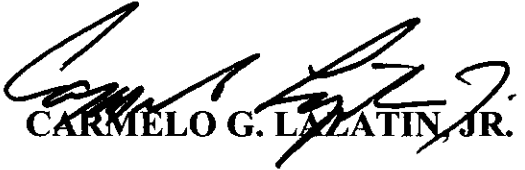
Philhealth already offers annual benefit packages for out-patient pegged at P9,000.00 for General Health Services and P16, 000.00 for Specialty Health Services, however, treatment for mental health disorders in the Philippines are indeed very expensive. If we are to base on the number of affected population, these benefit packages would not go a long way.

¹ Navigating the Stream: Empowering Filipinos in their Mental Health Journey. Acta Med Philipp [Internet]. 2024 Oct. 31 [cited 2025 Jul. 31];58(19). Available from: <https://actamedicaphilippina.upm.edu.ph/index.php/acta/article/view/11983>

² PubMed Central. 2019. Mental health services in the Philippines.pmc.ncbi.nih.gov/National Library of Medicine <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC6646843/>

Hence, there is a need to expand Philhealth Benefit Packages to include emergency services, psychiatric and neurological services in order for the government to make a significant impact in addressing mental health concerns.

In view of the above, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


CARMELO G. LAZATIN, JR.



Republic of the Philippines

TWENTIETH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

HOUSE BILL NO. 2933

Introduced by Rep. CARMELO G. LAZATIN, JR.

AN ACT

**EXPANDING THE PRIMARY CARE PACKAGE UNDER PHILHEALTH TO
INCLUDE BENEFIT PACKAGE FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES**

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

1 **SECTION 1.** *Title* - This Act shall be known and cited as “*Mental Health Benefit*
2 *Package Act*”

3 **SECTION 2.** *Declaration of Policy* – It is the policy of the State to protect and promote
4 the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.

5 The State shall pursue programs and measures that would improve the quality of life of all
6 Filipinos, highlighting the importance of a balanced mental health.

7 It shall advocate to facilitate the treatment of mental health conditions and/ or disorders
8 and promote awareness on mental health issues to prevent stigmatization and discrimination of
9 individuals facing mental challenges.

10 The State commits to provide timely, free, quality and appropriate treatment that is
11 available to the public. It shall foster an environment where mentally afflicted as well as mentally
12 recovered could still exercise and enjoy their human rights without fear of prejudice.

13 To this end, the State shall promote a health care package, among others, to include
14 emergency services, psychiatric, and neurological service and mental health gap action program.

1 **SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms-*** For purposes of this Act, the following terms are
2 hereby defined:

- 3 a) Mental Health refers to a state of mental well-being that enables people to cope
4 with the stresses of life, realize their abilities, learn well and work well.
5
6 b) Mental Health Disorders refer to a wide range of conditions that affect a person's
7 thinking, feeling, mood or behavior.
8
9 c) Emergency Services shall refer to immediate, time-sensitive interventions provided
10 to individuals experiencing a mental health crisis like severe suicidal thoughts,
11 psychosis or extreme agitation.
12
13 d) Psychiatric Service shall refer to the specialized care and treatment provided by
14 psychiatrists, who are medical doctors with expertise in diagnosing and treating
15 mental, emotional, and behavioral disorders.
16

17 **SECTION 4. *Mental Health Benefit Package-*** The Philhealth shall consult with the
18 Department of Health and other stakeholders and develop a Mental Health Benefit Package for all
19 Filipinos, one (1) year from the effectivity of this Act. This benefit package shall cover all mental
20 health disorders and shall include emergency services, psychiatric and neurological service, and
21 mental health gap action program.
22

23 **SECTION 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations-*** The Secretary of the Department of
24 Health shall enact the implementing Rules and Regulations for this Act.
25

26 **SECTION 6. *Appropriations-*** The amount necessary to implement this Act shall be
27 charged against the total revenue of PhilHealth, from the premium contributions from direct
28 contributors and premium subsidies of the government for the indirect contributors.
29

30 **SECTION 7. *Separability Cause.*** - If any provision or part of this Act Is declared
31 unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.
32

33 **SECTION 8. *Repealing Cause.*** — All laws, executive orders, issuances, rules and
34 regulations, inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly
35

36 **SECTION 9. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its
37 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.
38

39 Approved,