

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Batasan Hills, Quezon City
TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 3733

Introduced by Hon. Julianne "Jam" L. Baronda

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The right to health is enshrined in Article II, Section 15 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution, which mandates the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.

In addition to that, Republic Act No. 11223, otherwise known as the Universal Health Care (UHC) Act, seeks to ensure that all Filipinos are guaranteed equitable access to quality and affordable health care goods and services, and protected against financial risk.

To achieve the objectives of the UHC Act, the National Health Insurance Program (NHIP), administered by the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), plays a central role in delivering essential health services to all Filipinos, particularly the poor, marginalized, and vulnerable sectors of society. However, given the growing population, inflationary pressures on medical costs, and the expansion of benefit packages, there is a pressing need for additional resources to sustain and enhance PhilHealth coverage.

This proposed measure seeks to appropriate the sum of **Seventy-Four Billion Four Hundred Thirty-One Million Nine Hundred Thirty Thousand Pesos (₱74,431,930,000.00)** as supplemental appropriations for Fiscal Year 2025 to ensure uninterrupted and improved delivery of health services under the NHIP. Specifically, the funding shall be allocated for:

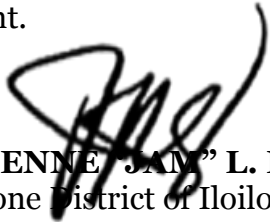
1. Health insurance premiums of indirect contributors and their qualified dependents, including indigents, senior citizens, unemployed persons with disability, and financially-incapable point-of-service patients (₱53.13 billion);
2. Benefit package improvement under the UHC Law, such as expanded dialysis coverage, mental health outpatient services, enhanced Z-benefit packages, severe acute malnutrition treatment, rationalized medical procedures, and comprehensive outpatient benefits including free consultations, diagnostics, outpatient drug coverage, and emergency medical services (₱21.17 billion); and

3. Health insurance premiums for beneficiaries under the PAyapa at MASaganang PamayaNAn (PAMANA) Program (₱127.56 million).

By ensuring that PhilHealth has sufficient resources to cover the most vulnerable populations and expand its benefit packages, this measure directly addresses both the accessibility and quality of health services in the country. The additional appropriations will bridge funding gaps, prevent service interruptions, and protect more Filipino families from catastrophic health expenses.

In view of the urgency to safeguard the health and welfare of all Filipinos, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

Hence, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



HON. JULIENNE "JAN" L. BARONDA
Lone District of Iloilo City

HOUSE BILL NO. 3733

AN ACT APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF SEVENTY FOUR BILLION FOUR HUNDRED THIRTY ONE MILLION NINE HUNDRED THIRTY THOUSAND PESOS (P74,431,930,000.00) AS SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR FY 2025 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Appropriations. – The sum of Seventy Four Billion Four Hundred Thirty One Million Nine Hundred Thirty Thousand Pesos (P74,431,930,000.00) is hereby appropriated to supplement the FY 2025 General Appropriations Act.

Sec. 2. –Use and Release of Funds - The amounts appropriated herein shall be used as subsidy for the National Health Insurance Program specifically for the following:

- a. Fifty Three Billion One Hundred Thirty Four Million Three Hundred Seventy Thousand Pesos (P53,134,370,000.00) for the health insurance premiums of indirect contributors as defined under Republic Act No. 11223 or the Universal Health Care Act, as well as their qualified dependents, indigents under the National Household Targeting System for Poverty Reduction as identified by the Department of Social Welfare and Development, senior citizens pursuant to Republic Act No. 10645, unemployed persons with disability jointly determined by the Department of Health (DOH) and the National Council on Disability Affairs, and financially-incapable point-of-service patients as identified by the DOH.
- a. Twenty One Billion One Hundred Seventy Million Pesos (P21,170,000,000.00) for the benefit package improvement under the Universal Health Care Law including, but not limited to, the expansion of dialysis coverage, mental health outpatient coverage, improvement of Z-benefit packages, severe acute malnutrition, all case rate, rationalization of selected medical and surgical procedures, and the implementation of the comprehensive outpatient benefit package, including free consultation fees, laboratory tests, other diagnostic services, outpatient drug benefit, and emergency medical services.
- a. One Hundred Twenty Seven Million Five hundred Sixty Thousand Pesos (P127,560,000.00) for the health insurance premiums of the beneficiaries under the PAYapa at MASaganang PamayaNAn (PAMANA) Program. Releases from this Fund shall be made by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) directly to the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth).

Sec. 3. Availability of Appropriations. – The appropriations authorized in this Act shall be available for release and obligation for the purpose specified until December 31, 2025.

Sec. 4. Submission of Reports. - The DBM and PhilHealth shall submit, either in printed form or by way of electronic document, to the House Committee on Appropriations, the Senate Committee on Finance and the Commission on Audit, the quarterly accountability reports on the utilization of funds. The DBM and the DBM's web administrator or his/her equivalent shall be responsible for ensuring that the said quarterly reports are likewise posted on the official website of the DBM and the implementing agency.

Releases from the said Fund shall be subject to the submission of a special budget pursuant to Section 35, Chapter 5, Book VI of Executive Order No. 292, series of 1987.

Sec. 5. Separability Clause. – If any portion or provisions of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remainder of the Act or any provisions not affected thereby shall remain in force and effect.

Sec. 6. Repealing Clause. – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, rule or regulation inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Sec. 7. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,