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Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4754



Introduced by REP. JESUS ANGEL MANUEL "BONG" C. SUNTAY

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines declares as a policy of the State that "the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them" (Article II, Section 15). It further mandates that the State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development that makes essential goods, health, and social services available to all the people at affordable cost (Article XIII, Section 11).

In pursuit of this constitutional mandate, Republic Act No. 11223, otherwise known as the Universal Health Care (UHC) Act, was enacted to ensure equitable access to quality and affordable health care services for all Filipinos. Central to the implementation of this law is the National Health Insurance Program (NHIP) administered by the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), which provides health insurance coverage and benefits to members and their qualified dependents.

Despite this landmark reform, the Philippine health system continues to face pressing challenges. Millions of Filipinos still struggle with out-of-pocket medical expenses, inadequate coverage of benefit packages, and financial barriers that prevent access to essential health services. Moreover, vulnerable groups such as indigents, senior citizens, persons with disabilities, and geographically disadvantaged communities often remain at the margins of health care access.

Recognizing these gaps, this 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 a supplemental appropriation for FY 2025 to bolster the government's health financing strategy through PhilHealth.

This proposed measure seeks to strengthen the sustainability and responsiveness of the Universal Health Care program by directly funding critical areas of health insurance coverage and benefits. By subsidizing premiums for vulnerable populations, it ensures that no Filipino is excluded from the protection of PhilHealth due to financial incapacity. By expanding benefit packages, it reduces the out-of-pocket burden on families and provides more comprehensive care, particularly in areas such as dialysis, mental health, and outpatient services that directly affect millions of households.

1 The allocation for PAMANA beneficiaries also highlights the government's
2 commitment to inclusive health care, recognizing that lasting peace and development
3 in conflict-affected areas require equitable access to basic social services, particularly
4 health.

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6 Ultimately, this supplemental budget represents a concrete investment in the health
7 and well-being of the Filipino people. It demonstrates the State's firm commitment
8 to equity, social justice, and the constitutional right to health while moving closer to
9 the full realization of universal health care in the country.

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12 In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.
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REP. JESUS "BONG" C. SUNTAY

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2 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**
3 Constitution Hills, Quezon City

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8 **HOUSE BILL NO. 4754**
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11 Introduced by REP. JESUS MANUEL BONG SUNTAY
12

13 **AN ACT APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF SEVENTY-FOUR BILLION**
14 **FOUR HUNDRED THIRTY-ONE MILLION NINE HUNDRED THIRTY**
15 **THOUSAND PESOS (P74,431,930,000.00) AS SUPPLEMENTAL**
16 **APPROPRIATIONS FOR FY 2025 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**
17

18
19 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in
20 Congress assembled:
21

22 **SECTION 1. Appropriations.** – The sum of Seventy-Four Billion Four Hundred
23 Thirty-One Million Nine Hundred Thirty Thousand Pesos (P74,431,930,000.00) is
24 hereby appropriated to supplement the FY 2025 General Appropriations Act.
25

26 **SECTION 2. Use and Release of Funds.** – The amounts appropriated herein
27 shall be used as subsidy for the National Health Insurance Program specifically for
28 the following:

- 29 a. Fifty Three Billion One Hundred Thirty Four Million Three Hundred Seventy
30 Thousand Pesos (P53,134,370,000.00) for the health insurance premiums of
31 indirect contributors as defined under Republic Act No. 11223 or the Universal
32 Health Care Act, as well as their qualified dependents, indigents under the
33 National Household Targeting System for Poverty Reduction as identified by
34 the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), senior citizens
35 pursuant to Republic Act No. 10645, unemployed persons with disability
36 jointly determined by the Department of Health (DOH) and the National
37 Council on Disability Affairs, and financially-incapable point-of-service
38 patients as identified by the DOH.
- 39 b. Twenty One Billion One Hundred Seventy Million Pesos
40 (P21,170,000,000.00) for the benefit package improvement under the
41 Universal Health Care (UHC) Law including, but not limited to, the expansion
42 of dialysis coverage, mental health outpatient coverage, improvement of Z-
43 benefit packages, severe acute malnutrition, all case rate, rationalization of
44 selected medical and surgical procedures, and the implementation of the
45 comprehensive outpatient benefit package, including free consultation fees,
46 laboratory tests, other diagnostic services, outpatient drug benefit, and
47 emergency medical services.
- 48 c. One Hundred Twenty-Seven Million Five Hundred Sixty Thousand Pesos
49 (P127,560,000.00) for the health insurance premiums of the beneficiaries
50 under the PAYapa at MASaganang PamayaNAn (PAMANA) Program.

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2 **SECTION 3. *Availability of Appropriations.*** – The appropriations authorized
3 in this Act shall be available for release and obligation for the purpose specified until
4 December 31, 2025.
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6 **SECTION 4. *Submission of Reports.*** – The Department of Budget and
7 Management (DBM) and the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth)
8 shall submit, either in printed form or by way of electronic document, to the House
9 Committee on Appropriations, the Senate Committee on Finance, and the
10 Commission on Audit, the quarterly accountability reports on the utilization of funds.
11 The DBM and the DBM’s web administrator or his/her equivalent shall be responsible
12 for ensuring that the said quarterly reports are likewise posted on the official website
13 of the DBM and the implementing agency.
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15 Releases from the said Fund shall be subject to the submission of a special budget
16 pursuant to Section 35, Chapter 5, Book VI of Executive Order No. 292, series of 1987.
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18 **SECTION 5. *Separability Clause.*** – If any part, section or provision of this Act
19 is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected by such
20 declaration shall remain in full force and effect.
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22 **SECTION 6. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and
23 regulations, or other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of
24 this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.
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26 **SECTION 7. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
27 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.
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29 Approved,