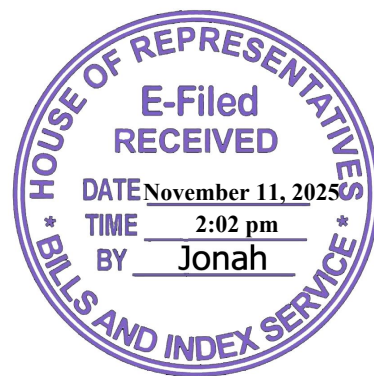




HOUSE BILL NO. 5829

Introduced by Representative JAIME EDUARDO MARC D. COJUANGCO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution mandates that the State adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development, ensuring essential health and social services are available to all people at an affordable cost. The core objective of the National Health Insurance Program (NHIP), established by Republic Act No. 7875 (as amended by R.A. No. 10606), is to achieve universal health insurance coverage and ensure that access to care is a function of a person's health needs rather than their ability to pay. The Program strives to be responsive and should adequately meet the needs for personal health services at various stages of a member's life.

Furthermore, the State recognizes the role of Traditional and Alternative Health Care (TAHC). The current law explicitly defines TAHC to include methods such as acupuncture and chiropractic.

II. Necessity for Amendment

While the NHIP's Benefit Package (Section 10) covers inpatient and outpatient care, including prescription drugs and biologicals, the explicit inclusion and standardized coverage of specific TAHC modalities and complementary medications remain discretionary. Currently, the Corporation and the Department of Health (DOH) determine other covered health care services based on whether they are appropriate and cost-effective.

This bill addresses the growing evidence supporting the efficacy and cost-effectiveness of certain alternative modalities, aiming to formalize their integration into the standard PhilHealth benefits. By not covering these essential, scientifically proven treatments, members are often forced to shoulder high out-of-pocket expenses for care that is deemed medically appropriate for their condition.

The amendment is necessary to fulfill the Corporation's mandate to review services annually and determine their financial sustainability and relevance to health innovations, with the goal of increasing benefits and reducing out-of-pocket expenditures for members.

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

JAIME EDUARDO MARC D. COJUANGCO
Representative
1st District of Tarlac

HOUSE BILL NO. 5829

Introduced by Representative JAIME EDUARDO MARC D. COJUANGCO

AN ACT FURTHER AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7875, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE ACT OF 1995," AS AMENDED, TO EXPAND COVERAGE OF TRADITIONAL AND ALTERNATIVE HEALTH CARE MODALITIES AND MEDICATIONS

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

Section 1. Section 10 of Republic Act No. 7875, as amended by Republic Act No. 10606, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 10. Benefit Package. – “Members and their dependents are entitled to the following minimum services, subject to the limitations specified in this Act and as may be determined by the Corporation:

(a) and (b) [No change in existing provisions regarding Inpatient and Outpatient care. These sections remain as written in R.A. No. 10606, Sec. 7].

(c) Emergency and transfer services; and

(d) Such other health care services that the Corporation, the Philippine Institute of Traditional and Alternative Health Care (PITAHC), and the DOH shall determine to be appropriate and cost-effective.

The minimum services shall henceforth include specific Traditional and Alternative Health Care modalities and associated prescription medicines, provided they meet the standards for scientific proof of efficacy, safety, and cost-effectiveness as determined by the Corporation’s Health Technology Assessment process.

Specifically, subject to the provisions of Section 11 of this Act, the following services and products, if determined scientifically proven, appropriate, and cost-effective through Health Technology Assessment, shall be included in the benefit packages available to members and their dependents:

(1) Treatment modalities explicitly recognized under Traditional and Alternative Health Care, including but not limited to:

- a. Chiropractic services;
- b. Acupuncture services; and
- c. Osteopathic Manipulation and other similar manual therapies as approved by the Corporation, PITAHC, and the DOH.

(2) Herbal Medication:

- a. Prescription herbal drugs and biologicals that have demonstrated scientific proof of efficacy and safety, approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and

determined to be appropriate and cost-effective by the Corporation in coordination with the DOH.

These services and packages shall be reviewed annually to determine their financial sustainability and relevance to health innovations, with the end in view of quality assurance, increased benefits, and reduced out-of-pocket expenditure.”

Section 2. Implementing Rules and Regulations - Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Corporation, in coordination with the DOH and PITAHC, shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for its effective implementation.

Section 3. Separability Clause. – If any part or provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, other provisions which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

Section 4. Repealing Clause. – All laws, issuances, or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 5. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.