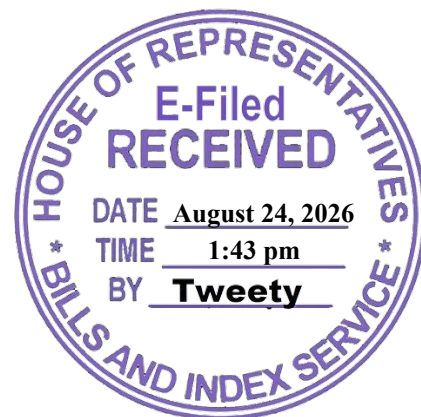




Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila



TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10874

Introduced by REPRESENTATIVE CHEENO MIGUEL D. ALMARIO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Annual health examinations are important for the early detection and management of silent medical conditions. However, data shows 40% of Filipinos undergo annual medical checkups.¹ Among the primary reasons behind this low rate are the high cost attributed to consultation and diagnostic tests, and prioritization of basic needs over healthcare concerns.

We must shift our perspective from a reactive mindset, that is “If it is not broken, don’t fix it”, to a preventive and proactive health care. By prioritizing early intervention, we optimize the window of opportunity to treat and manage diseases before symptoms manifest, which will result to saving more lives at a much lower healthcare costs.

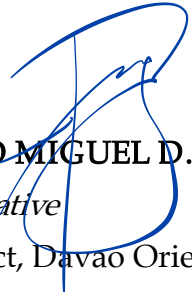
Under Article XIII of the 1987 Philippine Constitution, the State is mandated to adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development. While we took a big step towards this mandate with the enactment of Republic Act No. 11223 or the Universal Health Care Act in 2018, there should be a continuous efforts to expand and enhance the range of healthcare services being offered to the Filipino people.

¹“New Study Reveals Only 40% of Filipinos Get Yearly Checkups, an issue that can be addressed by UHC law – Atty. Conti,” Capstone-Intel, September 4, 2023, <https://www.capstone-intel.com/new-study-reveals-only-40-of-filipinos-get-yearly-checkups-an-issue-that-can-be-addressed-by-uhc-law-atty-conti/>.

As such, this measure seeks to provide all Filipinos access to free annual health examinations, aside from the benefits granted under the Universal Health Care Act. The annual health examination shall include consultation, physical examination, routine laboratory or diagnostic examinations, complete blood count (CBC), lipid profile, fasting blood sugar (FBS), chest x-ray, among others.

The saying “health is wealth” applies not only to individual but to the nation as a whole. Maintaining a healthy population is a good foundation of a robust economy, efficient and effective workforce, and high national productivity. The expansion and strengthening of our healthcare services is an essential investment in our human capital.

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



CHEENO MIGUEL D. ALMARIO
Representative
2nd District, Davao Oriental



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10874

Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE CHEENO MIGUEL D. ALMARIO**

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

*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 “**Free Annual Medical Check-up Act**”

Section 2. Declaration of Principle. – It is the policy of the State to protect and promote the right to health of all Filipinos and instill health consciousness among them. To this end, the State shall provide programs that will ensure that all Filipinos have access to quality and cost-effective preventive and curative health services.

Section 3. Coverage. – All Filipinos Citizens, who are direct or indirect contributors members of the National Health Insurance Program (NHIC) under Republic Act no. 11223 or the “Universal Health Care Law”, shall be entitled to the existing and applicable benefits under the Philippine Health Insurance Program. All members shall be entitled to a free Annual Medical Check-up.

For the purpose of this Act, “*Annual Medical Check-up*” is a yearly preventive routine health evaluation, which includes consultation, physical examination, routine laboratory or diagnostic examinations, complete blood count (CBC), lipid profile, fasting blood sugar, chest x-ray, urinalysis, stool analysis, complete physical examinations, among others.

Section 4. Schedule of Free Medical Check-up. – To promote health, identify risks, ensure effective early diagnosis of diseases, PhilHealth shall establish a scheduling system that allows timely and equitable access to health care services.

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

Section. 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within ninety (90) calendar days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Health, in coordination with PhilHealth, shall promulgate the rules and regulations necessary for its implementation.

Section 7. Separability Clause. – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected by such declaration shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 8. Repealing Clause. – All laws, executive orders, decrees, rules and regulations, or any part thereof inconsistent with the provision of this Act are deemed repealed or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,