Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION No. 24

Introduced by
BAYAN MUNA Party-List Representatives FERDINAND R. GAITE,
CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE, and EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT,
ACT TEACHERS Party-List Representative FRANCISCO L. CASTRO,
GABRIELA Women’s Party Representative ARLENE D. BROSAS,
and KABATAAN Party-List Representative SARAH JANE I. ELAGO

JOINT RESOLUTION
APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF SALARY GRADE 15 FOR NURSES IN THE GOVERNMENT PURSUANT TO
REPUBLIC ACT NO 9173 OR THE PHILIPPINE NURSING ACT OF 2002

WHEREAS, Section 32 of the Republic Act No 9173 or the Philippine Act of 2002 states that:

"SEC. 32. Salary. — In order to enhance the general welfare, commitment to service
and professionalism of nurses, the minimum base pay of nurses working in the public
health institutions shall not be lower than salary grade 15 prescribed under Republic
Act No. 6758, otherwise known as the “Compensation and Classification Act of
1989”: Provided, That for nurses working in local government units, adjustments to
their salaries shall be in accordance with Section 10 of the said law;

WHEREAS, on June 1, 2009 and June 2, 2009, the House of Representatives and the
Senate, respectively, adopted Joint Resolution No. 4 which authorized the President “to
Modify the Compensation and Position Classification System of Civilian Personnel and the
Base Pay Schedule of Military and Uniformed Personnel in the Government, and for Other
Purposes.” Joint Resolution No 4 which was thereafter approved by President Gloria
Macapagal-Arroyo modifies RA 9173;

WHEREAS, on June 17, 2009, President Arroyo issued Executive Order No 811, which
adopted “(t)he First Tranche of the Modified Salary Schedule of Civilian Personnel and Base
Pay Schedule of Military and Uniformed Personnel in the Government, as well as the
Modified Position Classification System Pursuant to Senate and House Representatives Joint
Resolution No. 4, s. 2009. Section 6 of EO 811 mandated that the salary grade (SG) for the
position “Nurse I” be increased from SG 10 to SG 11. The salary grade for nurses under EO 811 is way below the salary grade for nurses under RA 9173, which is SG 15;

WHEREAS, on October 8, 2019, the Supreme Court declared as valid Section 32 of the Philippine Nursing Act or Republic Act No. 9173 which states that “the minimum base pay of nurses working in public health institutions shall not be lower than salary grade 15”;

WHEREAS, the Court ruled that Joint Resolution No. 4 (s. 2009), being a mere resolution, cannot amend or repeal a prior law such as RA 9173 or the Philippine Nursing Act. The same applies to Executive Order 811, which is not a law, but an executive directive;

WHEREAS, for seventeen years, nurses were provided with salaries below what was lawfully and rightfully due them. Due to inadequate salaries and benefits, more nurses are seeking better opportunities abroad, aggravating the severe understaffing in hospitals and communities and affecting the services provided to the Filipino people. Despite the calls for salary increase, the government paid deaf ears to the calls of the nurses;

WHEREAS, the Court in the same decision, however, did not grant the prayer of the petitioners to compel the implementation of Sec. 32 of RA 9173 since its implementation would necessarily require a law passed by Congress providing the necessary funds for it;

WHEREAS, according to the initial computations of nurses in the Department of Health, P1.5 billion is needed this year to implement the Salary Grade 15 for nurses;

WHEREAS, the amounts necessary for the implementation for the Salary Grade 15 for nurses in the government for FY 2019 shall be sourced from the Miscellaneous Personnel Benefit Fund and other available funds. The funding requirements for the succeeding years shall be included in the General Appropriations Act;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives and the Senate, mandate the appropriation of funds for the implementation of the Salary Grade 15 for nurses in the government pursuant to Republic Act No 9173 or the Philippine Nursing Act of 2002.

Adopted,

REP. FERDINAND R. GAITE
BAYAN MUNA Partylist

REP. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE
BAYAN MUNA Partylist

REP. EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT
BAYAN MUNA Partylist

REP. FRANCE I. CASTRO
ACT TEACHERS Party-List
REP. ARLENE D. BROSAS
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REP. SARAH JANE I. ELAGO
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