A RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO IMMEDIATELY RELEASE THE AMOUNTS CORRESPONDING TO THE HAZARD PAY AND SPECIAL RISK ALLOWANCE TO ALL GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS ALL OVER THE COUNTRY FOR THEIR DOCTORS, NURSES AND OTHER HEALTH PERSONNEL

WHEREAS, the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by a new strain of coronavirus, which was unknown before the outbreak began in Wuhan, China in December 2019;

WHEREAS, on January 30, 2020, the Department of Health (DOH) reported the first case of COVID-19 in the country with a 38-year old female Chinese national, then on March 7, 2020, the first local transmission of COVID-19 was confirmed;

WHEREAS, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte issued Proclamation 922 declaring a state of public emergency throughout the Philippines and on March 16, 2020, the whole island of Luzon was placed under Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) resulting in a lockdown with majority of the population ordered to stay home;

WHEREAS, at the forefront of our battle against COVID-19 are our doctors, nurses and others in the health sector and medical field;

WHEREAS, they are the ones who face this virus head-on risking their own personal safety, which unfortunately resulted in deaths among them;

WHEREAS, this only highlights the extreme danger that our doctors, nurses and others in the health sector and medical field face in saving lives;

WHEREAS, Section 4, par (d) of Republic Act 11469 or the Bayanihan to Heal as One Act provides:

SEC. 4. Authorized Powers. — Pursuant to Article VI, Section 23 (2) of the Constitution, the President is hereby authorized to exercise powers that are necessary and proper to carry out the declared national policy. The President shall have the power to adopt the following temporary emergency measures to respond to crisis brought by the pandemic:

(d) Ensure that all public health workers are protected by providing them with a "COVID-19 special risk allowance", in addition to the hazard pay granted under the Magna Carta of Public Health Workers of Republic Act No. 7305;
WHEREAS, it is very clear that our doctors and nurses are entitled to hazard pay and special risk allowance;

WHEREAS, however, until today, there are still those who have yet to receive the amounts representing their hazard pay and special risk allowance;

WHEREAS, in Cagayan de Oro, the health workers in the Northern Mindanao Medical Center, the designated COVID-19 referral hospital in Region 10, have not yet received their hazard pay and special risk allowance;

WHEREAS, last June 2020, President Duterte aired his anger and frustration over the delays in the release of compensation of health workers infected with COVID-19 in violation of Section 4, par (f) of Republic Act 11469 which provides that public and private health workers who may contract severe COVID-19 infection while in the line of duty are entitled to compensation of ₱100,000 and ₱1,000,000 for those who die while fighting the COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, President Duterte has also warned that he would fire officials behind the delay in the release of compensation package intended for the country’s health workers battling the COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, the reason for the delay is the DCH Central Office, which has not yet released and downloaded the amount for the hazard pay and risk allowance of our doctors, nurses and other health workers in our public health system.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives to urge the Department of Health to immediately release the amounts corresponding to the hazard pay and risk allowance to all government hospitals all over the country for their doctors, nurses and other health personnel.

Adopted,

RUFUS B. RODRIGUEZ