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

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Resolution No. 1073

INTRODUCED BY
REP. ALFRED VARGAS

A RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON GOOD GOVERNMENT AND
PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY TO CONDUCT AN URGENT INQUIRY, IN AID
OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE ALLEGED ANOMALIES SURROUNDING
PHILHEALTH’S OPERATIONS

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 7875, signed by President Fidel V. Ramos on February 14, 1995 created the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) mandated to provide social health insurance coverage to all Filipinos in 15 years' time;

WHEREAS, 2010 came and the social health coverage for all Filipinos was not achieved primarily due to funding constraints;

WHEREAS, earnest effort to secure funding only begun when taxes on cigarettes and alcohol was pushed by the Executive and picked up by Congress which gave the impetus for the passage of Republic Act No. 11223 otherwise known as the Universal Health Care (UHC) law;

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 11223 which President Rodrigo Duterte signed in March last year may have to be tabled because PhilHealth’s collections this year had dropped by 90 percent due to the lockdowns;

WHEREAS, apart from the drop in PhilHealth’s collections, reports of corruption happening within PhilHealth has been incessant;

WHEREAS, at least three PhilHealth officials have supposedly resigned from their posts out of detestation with “widespread corruption” issues within the agency, one of whom recently came out in the person of lawyer Thorrsson Montes Keith, PhilHealth’s anti-fraud legal officer;
WHEREAS, P734 million worth of information technology component which is part and parcel of a P2-billion purchase by PhilHealth was reportedly overpriced and has not secured the approval of the Department of Information and Communications Technology. All of PhilHealth’s private directors were reportedly against the purchase;

WHEREAS, in the midst of the Corona Virus Disease-2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, uncovered were overpriced PhilHealth packages for new COVID-19 tests which makes this act detestable as it capitalizes on the pandemic and our people’s vulnerabilities;

WHEREAS, not only is the UHC in peril but the condition of the country’s health care system is reaching critical levels;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, that the House Committee on Good Government and Public Accountability be directed to conduct an urgent inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the alleged anomalies surrounding PhilHealth’s operations.

Adopted,

REP. ALFRED VARGAS
Fifth District, Quezon City