

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Introduced by Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez*

House Bill No. 3817

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article II, Section 15 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that the state shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.

Article XII, Section 11 of the same Constitution provides that the state shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost. There shall be priority for the needs of the under-privileged, sick, elderly, disabled, women, and children. The state shall endeavor to provide free medical care to paupers.

This is the reason why we have the National Health Insurance Act and the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation. However, foreign nationals who are residents of this country should also be allowed to avail of the benefits of the National Health Insurance Act as long as they comply with the requirements including the payment of premiums.

These foreign nationals who have relocated to the Philippines and chosen our country as their second home came for commercial purposes, established their own businesses, or have settled as retirees or immigrants in the Philippines for personal or family reasons. During their stay, they have brought in considerable investments, patronized local businesses, contributed to the local economy, and in some cases have taken a role in nation building. They are as much a part of our public as our own citizens. They deserve consideration for their contributions and, to a certain extent, similar treatment.

Therefore, this bill seeks to grant foreign nationals residing in the Philippines coverage in the National Health Insurance Act.

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

  
RUFUS B. RODRIGUEZ

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AN ACT

AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7875, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE ACT OF 1995", AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT 10606, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

**SECTION 1.** Section 6 of Republic Act No. 7875, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 6. Mandatory Coverage. – All citizens of the Philippines **AND FOREIGN NATIONALS WHO ARE RESIDENTS OF THE PHILIPPINES** shall be covered by the National Health Insurance Program. In accordance with the principles of universality and compulsory coverage enunciated in Section 2(b) and 2(l) hereof, implementation of the Program shall ensure sustainability of coverage and continuous enhancement of the quality of service: Provided, That the Program shall be compulsory in all provinces, cities and municipalities nationwide, notwithstanding the existence of LGU-based health insurance programs: Provided, further, That the Corporation, Department of Health (DOH), local government units (LGUs), and other agencies including nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and other national government agencies (NGAs) shall ensure that members in such localities shall have access to quality and cost-effective health care services."

**Sec. 2. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**Sec. 3. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,