

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 809**



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**INTRODUCED BY HONORABLE CHERYL P. DELOSOMONTALLA**

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**RESOLUTION**

**URGING HIS EXCELLENCY RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES, AND THE PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION (PHILHEALTH) TO DEFER THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PHILHEALTH CIRCULAR NO. 2020-0014 MANDATING THE PREMIUM CONTRIBUTIONS AND COLLECTION OF PAYMENT OF OVERSEAS FILIPINO MEMBERS PENDING THE REVIEW OF CONGRESS OF SECTION 10 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11223, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "AN ACT INSTITUTING UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE FOR ALL FILIPINOS, PRESCRIBING REFORMS IN THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"**

**WHEREAS**, Republic Act No. 11223, otherwise known as "An Act Instituting Universal Health Care For All Filipinos, Prescribing Reforms In The Health Care System And Appropriating Funds Therefor" was signed into law by President Rodrigo Roa Duterte on February 20, 2019;

**WHEREAS**, Section 10 of the said law provides the premium contribution of all members of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth);

**WHEREAS**, in compliance with the provision of Section 10 of Republic Act No. 11223, the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation promulgated PhilHealth Circular No. 2020-0014 which was signed on April 2, 2020;

**WHEREAS**, while the said circular defines what needs to be done in order to collect the mandatory premium payment from overseas Filipino members of the corporation, this circular was issued at a time when our country is reeling from the economic atrocities of the CoViD-19 pandemic;

**WHEREAS**, the economic backlash of the CoViD-19 pandemic has also resulted in the job displacement of thousands of our Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) and forcing them now to swallow the bitter pill that is PhilHealth Circular 2020-0014 is a deplorable act for them whom we consider as our modern day heroes;

**WHEREAS**, it must be emphasized that OFW remittances shape the macroscopic economy of the Philippines and as of 2018, a total of USD 25.8 billion was sent home by our OFWs;<sup>1</sup>

**WHEREAS**, the impact of remittances on the Philippine economy goes beyond GDP numbers considering that OFW remittances contribute significantly to our country's foreign exchange earnings thereby strengthening our nation's position regarding balance of payments and bolstering our surplus on current accounts;<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.xpressmoney.com/blog/industry/ofws-the-strong-pillars-of-the-philippine-economy/>

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

**WHEREAS**, with the immense and significant role that our OFWs play in our country's economy, Congress must not allow further injustice to our OFWs particularly at this time when all of our citizens need the protection of our government from this corona virus pandemic;

**WHEREAS**, while Congress has cloaked the President with the powers to provide social amelioration to the various sectors of our society during this time of pandemic, it cannot allow our OFWs to helplessly wallow in misery over the exorbitant premium rates as a result of a provision of a law whose noble aim is to make healthcare accessible to all Filipinos;


**WHEREAS**, Congress is empowered to review the laws it makes to attune them to the needs of the time while making sure that these laws are just and equitable;

**WHEREAS**, as Congress exercises its power to revise or refine the provisions of Republic Act No. 11223 to make them fair and reasonable without overlooking at the law's purpose of achieving the overseas Filipino member's premium payment's desired support value, it is only proper to defer the implementation of PhilHealth Circular No. 2020-0014;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** TO URGE HIS EXCELLENCY RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES, AND THE PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION (PHILHEALTH) TO DEFER THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PHILHEALTH CIRCULAR NO. 2020-0014 MANDATING THE PREMIUM CONTRIBUTIONS AND COLLECTION OF PAYMENT OF OVERSEAS FILIPINO MEMBERS PENDING THE REVIEW OF CONGRESS OF SECTION 10 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11223, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "AN ACT INSTITUTING UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE FOR ALL FILIPINOS, PRESCRIBING REFORMS IN THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"

**RESOLVED, FURTHER**, to furnish a copy of this Resolution the Office of the President and Philippine Health Insurance Corporation for their information and appropriate action.

*Adopted,*

  
**CHERYL P. DELOSOS-MONTALLA**  
Representative  
2<sup>nd</sup> District, Zambales