

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session
House Resolution No. 817

Introduced by OFW FAMILY REPRESENTATIVE ALBERTO "BOBBY" D. PACQUIAO

RESOLUTION

URGING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO CALL FOR THE IMMEDIATE REVIEW OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11223, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE ACT", PARTICULARLY, ON THE INCREASE AND MANDATORY PAYMENT OF PREMIUM CONTRIBUTIONS IMPOSED UPON OVERSEAS FILIPINO MEMBERS AND TO SUSPEND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RELEVANT PROVISIONS OF R.A. 11223 AND ITS PERTINENT RULES AND REGULATIONS AS ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION

WHEREAS, Section 2 (b) of Republic Act No. 11223 or "The Universal Health Care Act" ("R.A. 11223") provides that it is the policy of the State to adopt a health care model that provides all Filipinos access to a comprehensive set of quality and cost-effective, promotive, preventive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative health services without causing financial hardship and prioritizes the needs of the population who cannot afford such services;

WHEREAS, under R.A. 11223, membership into the National Health Insurance Program ("NHIP") is simplified into two (2) categories, direct contributors and indirect contributors and that migrant workers or Overseas Filipino Workers ("OFWs"), including their qualified dependents, are classified as direct contributors whereby they are mandated to pay premium contributions to Philippine Health Insurance Corporation ("PhilHealth");

WHEREAS, an overwhelming number of OFWs find the mandatory premium rate of three percent (3%) exorbitant, unjust, and unreasonable;¹

¹ <https://www.rappler.com/nation/259772-online-petition-opposing-increase-ofw-philhealth-contributions>



WHEREAS, as a prerequisite condition for the issuance of Overseas Employment Certificate² ("OEC") (which serves as exit clearance and certifies registration with Philippine Overseas Employment Administration ["POEA"]), OFWs are compelled to pay their PhilHealth contributions, otherwise, they cannot secure OEC;

WHEREAS, without the OEC, OFWs may not be able to depart for or return to their work overseas, thus, this added burden to pay PhilHealth contribution causes not only financial hardships on them, but may constitute as an oppression on their right to earn a living;

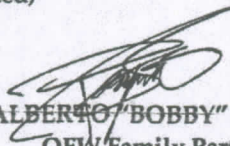
WHEREAS, PhilHealth, as tasked to administer the NHIP, issued PhilHealth Circular 2020-0014 which seeks to implement R.A. 11223 on the increase and mandatory payment of premium contributions of Overseas Filipino;

WHEREAS, a reading of R.A. 11223 would show that the true intention of the State is to provide health services to all Filipinos without causing financial hardships;

WHEREAS, the very reason of OFWs in seeking employment abroad is the lack of opportunities to earn income in the country, thus, requiring them to pay exorbitant premium contributions will only place them in financial hardship as they try to juggle between their obligations to pay high premium contributions (on the fear of not being able to secure an OEC or of being penalized³) and provide a better future for their family. Hence, the impending implementation of the relevant provisions of R.A. 11223 and its implementing rules and regulations would only bring injustice to our OFWs;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the House of Representatives are urged to call for the immediate review of R.A. 11223 on the increase and mandatory payment of premium contributions imposed upon Overseas Filipino members and to stop PhilHealth from implementing the relevant provisions of R.A. 11223 and its pertinent rules and regulations pending review.

Adopted,


REP. ALBERTO "BOBBY" D. PACQUIAO
OFW Family Party-list

² Section 10.2.c, Rule III of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. 11223.

³ Section 9 of R.A. 11223 provides that employers and self-employed direct contributors shall be required to pay all missed contributions with an interest, compounded monthly of at least three percent (3%) for employers and not exceeding one and one-half percent (1.5%) for self-earning, professional practitioners and migrant workers.