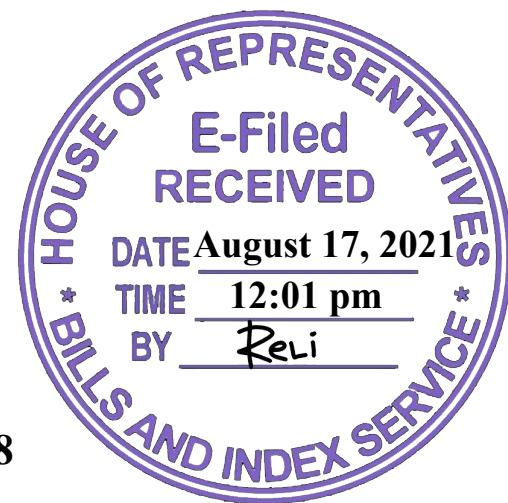


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2 Republic of the Philippines
3 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
4 Quezon City

5 EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
6 Third Regular Session

7
8 HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 2138
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12 **Introduced by**

13 **BAYAN MUNA Party-List Representatives FERDINAND R. GAITE,**
14 **CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE, and EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT,**
15 **ACT TEACHERS Party-List Representative FRANCE L. CASTRO,**
16 **GABRIELA Women's Party Representative ARLENE D. BROSAS,**
17 **and KABATAAN Party-List Representative SARAH JANE I. ELAGO**
18

19
20
21 **RESOLUTION**

22 **URGING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,**
23 **THROUGH THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND THE COMMITTEE ON GOOD**
24 **GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY,**
25 **TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION,**
26 **ON THE REPORTED UNPAID COVID 19 PANDEMIC- RELATED BENEFITS TO**
27 **HEALTH WORKERS, AND TO MANDATE THE IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION OF**
28 **SUCH TO ALL HEALTH WORKERS IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE FACILITIES**
29

30
31 **WHEREAS**, on August 12, 2021, the health workers' union leaders from St. Luke's Medical
32 Center (Quezon City and Bonifacio Global City), Chinese General Hospital, University of
33 Santo Tomas Hospital, Metropolitan Medical Center, Delos Santos Medical Center and other
34 private hospitals said they were considering a medical lockdown and possible mass resignation
35 amid the COVID-19 pandemic due to reported lack of benefits. The health workers complained
36 that they have not received the benefits which their counterparts in the public institutions have
37 received. These benefits include life insurance, meal, accommodation and transportation
38 (MAT), active hazard duty pay (AHDP) and special risk allowance (SRA);
39

40 **WHEREAS**, such benefits were mandated under Republic Act No 11494 or Bayanihan to
41 Recover as One Act, signed by President Rodrigo Duterte on September 11, 2020. RA 11494
42 or Bayanihan 2 particularly provided for the said COVID-19 benefits including compensation
43 for health workers who may contract or die from COVID 19 infection. RA 11494 allotted P13.5
44 billion for health related responses including the benefits for health workers;
45

46 **WHEREAS**, on June 1, 2021, President Duterte signed Administrative Order No 42
47 authorizing the continued grant of COVID-19 SRA to public and private health worker
48 directly catering to or in contact with COVID-19 patients. AO 42 stated that the allowance
49 shall be pro-rated based on the number of days of actual duty of health worker from
50 September 15, 2020 to June 30, 2021;

1 **WHEREAS**, on June 30, 2021, Bayanihan 2 lapsed with P18.4 billion unspent allocation. The
2 amount which will revert to the Bureau of Treasury include supposed funding for a number of
3 critical pandemic response programs, including P6.6 billion for laboratory testing service and
4 hiring of health workers;

5
6 **WHEREAS**, in addition, the Commission on Audit in its Audit of COVID-19 funds of the
7 DOH as of Dec. 31, 2020, noted deficiencies amounting to a total of P66.3 B which included
8 the amount of P11.9 B representing “unobligated allotments” which could have been used for
9 the payment of health care worker benefits;

10
11 **WHEREAS**, bills extending the validity of funds in Bayanihan 2 are pending in both houses
12 of Congress. HB 9411 or Bayanihan 3 bill was approved on third reading in the House of
13 Representatives. President Duterte has not issued any certification on the urgency of the said
14 bills;

15
16 **WHEREAS**, in a dialogue with private health workers with the Department of Health and
17 some legislators on August 2021, the DOH reported out that they have downloaded funds to
18 private hospitals including UST Hospital, St Luke's Medical Center and others for the SRA
19 and other benefits. Yet, health workers have not received the said benefits. In UST Hospital,
20 150 health workers contracted COVID-19 infection last year (2020) but have not been paid the
21 equivalent compensation;

22
23 **WHEREAS**, health workers are angry at the seemingly lack of consideration and urgency of
24 the DOH. While DOH Regional Office in Metro Manila reported that P10 million was available
25 for benefits of health workers in Manila, Marikina, Pasay and Quezon City, they have not
26 released the funds since they have not received requests from any hospital and they do not
27 know to whom and how much should they release funds;

28
29 **WHEREAS**, based on the online survey of Filipino Nurses' United of 216 health workers (72%
30 nurses) from public and private, 61% are assigned in COVID areas but 65% of the respondents
31 did not get the SRA from September 15 to December 19, 2020 while 88% of the respondents
32 did not get their SRA from Dec. 20, 2020 to June 30, 2021;

33
34 **WHEREAS**, according to the Alliance of Health Workers, several public hospital workers
35 received only partial benefits. Most have not received MAT, SRA and AHDP for January 2021-
36 June 2021. Some health workers who contracted COVID-19 especially those with mild
37 symptoms were not given COVID compensation. Many health workers in local government
38 units have not received SRA and MAT. Many more have not received the AHDP. Worse,
39 contractual health workers were not given AHDP and SRA;

40
41 **WHEREAS**, health workers also decry the lack of clear guidelines in the release of said
42 benefits. In many hospitals, despite employees being exposed to the same hazardous working
43 conditions, only those directly assigned in COVID wards received the SRA. While in other
44 hospitals, the amount of SRA is computed as to number of minutes/hours a health worker has
45 been exposed to the COVID patient instead of the number of days based on AO 42;

46
47 **WHEREAS**, the "medical lockdown" or mass resignation mulled by private hospital workers
48 over unpaid benefits is not the first time that health workers protested. In November 2020,
49 Philippine General Hospital workers staged a series of protest actions as they call for the
50 immediate release of their benefits. On June 23, 2021, the Alliance of Health Workers protested


1 in front of the DOH to demand the release of funds for health workers' benefits before the
2 Bayanihan 2 expired;

3
4 **WHEREAS**, risking their very own lives and safety, health workers deserve all the protection
5 and support they need. Many of our health worker frontliners have already sacrificed their lives.
6 The neglect of the welfare of health workers is unjust and unforgivable during this time of
7 COVID-19 crisis. Such neglect should not be allowed as these not only put the health workers
8 in unnecessary physical, mental and financial hardships which will negatively affect the health
9 services for our people;

10
11 **WHEREAS**, as duly-elected representatives of the people, there is an urgent need for Congress
12 to investigate the delays and non-distribution of mandated health worker benefits and urge the
13 immediate release of such with clear and standardized guidelines to all health workers in public
14 and private health facilities regardless of status of employment and area of assignment. The
15 urgent and timely intervention is necessary to support, protect and retain our health care
16 workers and prevent our health care system from collapse;


17
18 **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the House of Representatives, through the
19 Committee on Health and the Committee on Good Government and Public Accountability, to
20 conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the reported unpaid COVID 19 pandemic- related
21 benefits to health workers, and to mandate the immediate distribution of such to all health
22 workers in public and private health facilities.


23
24 *Adopted,*


REP. FERDINAND R. GAITE
Bayan Muna Partylist


REP. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE
Bayan Muna Partylist


REP. EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT
Bayan Muna Partylist


REP. FRANCE L. CASTRO
ACT Teachers Partylist


REP. ARLENE D. BROSAS
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REP. SARAH JANE I. ELAGO
Kabataan Partylist