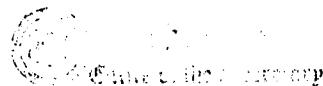


SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



'18 MAY 30 P10:40

SENATE

P. S. R. NO. 762

REC. 1

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ACCOUNTABILITY OF PUBLIC OFFICERS AND INVESTIGATIONS TO INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED UNAUTHORIZED TRANSFER OF P10.6 BILLION PHILHEALTH FUNDS ALLOTTED FOR SENIOR CITIZENS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

WHEREAS, on November 25, 2014, Republic Act No. 10654 was enacted into law. It mandates the compulsory Philhealth Coverage for Senior Citizens to be funded the National Health Insurance Fund of Philhealth sourced from Republic Act No. 10351 or the latest Sin Taxes Law.

WHEREAS, in the 2015 General Appropriations Act (GAA), P37.060 billion has been appropriated by Congress for the National Health Insurance Program, for the following: (1) Indigents under the NHTS-PR of the DSWD; (2) Low income that may be identified by the DSWD; (3) Barangay workers not receiving salaries from other resources; and (4) Senior citizens provided that are not yet covered by any existing membership category of Philhealth and are not dependents of a principal member

WHEREAS, then President Aquino in his Veto Message for the 2015 GAA stated that the "With respect, however, to senior citizen beneficiaries, the provisions of R.A. No. 10645 (*Expanded Senior Citizens Act*), shall be applied, taking into consideration those already covered under the National Health Insurance Program (NHIP)."

WHEREAS, the Veto Message of President Aquino further states that "The additional beneficiaries authorized under these provisions shall be funded through the Unprogrammed Fund. In all instances, the implementing agencies shall ensure that no overlapping of beneficiaries under the NHIP takes place."

WHEREAS, on April 28, 2015, the President of Philhealth, Atty. Alex Padilla requested DBM to process the Special Allotment Release Order (SARO) in the amount of P10.110 billion as payment of the health insurance premium subsidy of senior citizens under the newly created Senior Citizens category of the NHIP.

WHEREAS, in a letter dated August 8, 2015 to then Budget Secretary Florencio Abad, then Health Secretary Janette Garin said that:

“For this year (2015), senior citizens and other indigent individuals not yet covered under the NHTS-PR are now being enrolled to Philhealth through the Philhealth Point-of-Care Enrollment Program. The premiums will be paid from the income of participating government hospitals or the Medical Assistance Program. xxx

xxx xxx

The above-mentioned mechanism will enroll senior citizens and indigents to Philhealth without the need to utilize the P10.6 billion unprogrammed appropriations.

In this regard, DOH is respectfully requesting for the immediate release of the said amount to augment the 2015 Health Facilities Enhancement Program.”

WHEREAS, Philhealth received a letter on October 20, 2017 from the Office of Financial Management Service of DBM informing them that they cannot provide the requested appropriation from Medical Assistance Program funds for senior citizens as the MAP fund has been fully utilized. DBM requested that the requested amount be included in CY2019 budget proposal of Philhealth.

WHEREAS, according to Philhealth, the P10.6 billion allocations under the Unprogrammed Funds of 2015 GAA is still recorded as receivables from the National Government as subsidy for the Senior Citizens members pursuant to Republic Act No. 10654.

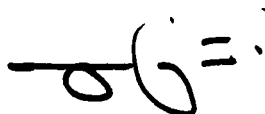
WHEREAS, it was stated by Philhealth Chief Operating Officer John Basa during the May 29, 2018 hearing of the Joint Congressional Oversight Committee on National Health Insurance Program that the request for transfer was done with the consent of then Philhealth President Atty. Padilla but without approval nor prior consultation of the Philhealth Board.

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to determine if the funds allocated for senior citizens under the Unprogrammed Funds has been utilized for purposes other than those stated in the 2015 GAA and caused the current financial distress of Philhealth.

WHEREAS, the determination of fiscal solvency of Philhealth is material for the viability of the National Health Insurance Program and the government's goal of achieving universal health care for all Filipinos. Thus, improper use of fund allocated for Philhealth would have a big impact to the NHIP fund and Philhealth's Reserve Fund.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Senate, to direct the Senate Committee on Accountability of Public Officers and Investigations to investigate, in aid of legislations, on the alleged unauthorized transfer of P10.6 billion Philhealth funds allotted for Senior Citizens to the Department of Health.

ADOPTED,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Ejercito', with a horizontal line extending to the left of the first letter.

JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO