JOINT RESOLUTION BY BOTH HOUSES OF CONGRESS DEFERRING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PREMIUM RATE INCREASE BY THE PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION (PHILHEALTH) FOR 2021

WHEREAS, Section 10 of Republic Act 11223 (Universal Health Care Act), mandates that the premium rate contribution of Direct Contributors shall increase from 3.00% to 3.5% in 2021;

WHEREAS, it should be noted that when R.A. 11223 was passed, a once in a century pandemic of a worldwide proportion has not yet ravaged the world’s economies;
WHEREAS, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the stringent lockdown enforced to prevent the spread of the disease, the Philippine unemployment rate at one point hit a 15-year all-time high of 10.4 percent and about 4.5 million Filipinos became jobless in 2020\(^1\); 

WHEREAS, among those affected by the pandemic would be PhilHealth’s registered direct contributors of 14.4 million workers employed by the private sector and 3.6 million overseas Filipino workers (OFWs)\(^2\); 

WHEREAS, the massive displacement of workers and harsh economic conditions brought about by the pandemic should considered as a fortuitous event basis for the suspension of a premium rate contribution by the State Insurance firm; 

WHEREAS, the rough estimate is that Philhealth will be postponing less than PhP500 million worth of incremental premiums on an annual basis from direct contributors, which is certainly a big reprieve for Philhealth members who have lost their jobs during the pandemic; 

WHEREAS, the Philhealth can always dip into its reserve fund during the postponement of the rate increase in 2021 in the extreme situation where claims and administrative expenses might exceed contribution collections during the pandemic; 

THEREFORE, be it resolved as it is hereby resolved that both Houses of Congress defer the implementation of the premium rate contribution of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (Philhealth) for the year 2021.

Adopted,

HON. MICHAEL T. DEFENSOR  
Party-List, Anakalusugan

HON. ALFREDO A. GARBIN, Jr.  
Party-List, Ako Bicol

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\(^1\) https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1367928/4-5m-pinoys-jobless-in-2020  
HON. ANGELICA NATASHA CO
Party-List, BHW

HON. ALFRED C. DELOS SANTOS
Party-List, Ang Probinsyano

HON. JOSE GAY G. PADIERNOS
Party-List, GP

HON. ANTONIO "TONYPET" T. ALBANO
Isabela, 1st District

HON. MARCEL G. NATIVIDAD-NAGAÑO MD.
Nueva Ecija, 4th District
HON. ALETA C. SUAREZ
QUEZON, 3RD DISTRICT

HON. JOSE "BONG" J. TEVES, Jr.
Party-List, TGP

HON. ANTHONY PETER "ONYX" D. CRISOLOGO
Quezon City, 1st District

HON. STRIKE B. REVILLA
Cavite, 2nd District

HON. PAZ C. RADAZA
Lapu-Lapu City, Lone District
HON. LEONARDO L. BABASA, Jr.
Zamboanga Del Sur, 2nd District

HON. ARGEL JOSEPH T. CABATBAT
Party-List, MAGSASAKA

HON. RESURRECCION M. ACOP
Antipolo City, 2nd District

HON. ELIZALDY S. CO
Party-List, AKO BICOL

HON. ROMEO S. MOMO, SR.
Party-List, CWS
HON. GODOFREDO N. GUYA  
Party-List, RECOBODA

HON. SAMANTHA LOUISE VARGAS-ALFONSO  
Cagayan, 2nd District

HON. PRESLEY C. DE JESUS  
Party-List, PHILRECA

HON. SANDRA Y. ERIGUEL, M.D.  
La Union, 2nd District

HON. LEO RAFAEL M. CUEVA  
Negros Occidental, 2nd District

HON. MA. ANGELICA M. AMANTE-MATBA
HON. JANICE Z. SALIMBANGON  
Cebu, 4th District

HON. HECTOR S. SANCHEZ  
Catanduanes, Lone District

HON. JOSE CHRISTOPHER Y. BELMONTE  
Quezon City, 6th District

HON. ALLAN U. TY  
Party-List, LPGMA

HON. SONNY "SL" L. LAGON  
Party-List, AKO BISAYA
HON. LORNA P. BAUTISTA-BANDIGAN  
Davao Occidental, Lone District

HON. DUCIELLE MARIE S. CARDEMA  
Party-List, DUTERTE YOUTH

HON. ANNA MARIE VILLARAZA-SUAREZ  
Party-List, ALONA

HON. CYRILLE "BENG" F. ABUEG-ZALDIVAR  
Palawan, 2nd District

HON. RAMON JR. C. NOLASCO  
Cagayan, 1st District

HON. EMMARIE "LOLYPOP" M. OUANO-DIZON  
Cebu, 6th District