HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Introduced by Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez

House Res No. **970**

A RESOLUTION

URGING THE PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION (PHILHEALTH) TO IMMEDIATELY SETTLE THE UNPAID CLAIMS OF ACCREDITED PRIVATE HOSPITALS

WHEREAS, the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) accredits private hospitals which allows their patients to avail of services which would be paid by Philhealth;

WHEREAS, according to the Private Hospitals Association of the Philippines (PHAPI), many hospitals have not yet been paid/reimbursed by Philhealth as of the end of 2019 which allegedly amounts to around Php 4 billion;

WHEREAS, it is also alleged that PhilHealth has admitted to failing to pay P14-billion worth of claims as of December 2018;

WHEREAS, PHAPI has 733 member-hospitals, representing 44,700-plus beds nationwide;

WHEREAS, according to PHAPI, aside from non-payment, many hospitals, specifically in Mindanao, have been stripped of accreditation over pending cases, mostly in connection with alleged upcasing, which is the practice of declaring that a patient has a different ailment to get higher reimbursements;

WHEREAS, PHAPI also claims that they could not understand why some hospitals in Mindanao got their PhilHealth accreditations revoked when no decision has been reached on the complaints against them and that these hospitals were not given the opportunity to be heard in a formal hearing;

WHEREAS, as a result of unpaid claims, PHAPI members have signified their intention "to hold back or hold in abeyance" their accreditation with Philhealth, which would be very detrimental to the Filipino people;
WHEREAS, many hospitals have had to obtain emergency loans just to be able to sustain their operations;

WHEREAS, one of the reasons why many private hospitals are struggling to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic is because they are running out of funds;

WHEREAS, hospitals are also retrenching some of its employees to ensure their sustainability;

WHEREAS, as an example, the University of Santo Tomas Hospital (USTH) has reduced its manpower and implemented cost-efficiency measures following “significant losses” inflicted by the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and the delay in the payment of Philhealth;

WHEREAS, USTH medical director Dr. Marcellus Francis Ramirez said that the reimbursement from PhilHealth “is delayed by an average of 5-6 months”, and that “the receivable of USTH from PhilHealth stands at more than P180 million and counting”;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives to urge the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (Philhealth) to immediately settle the unpaid claims of accredited private hospitals.

Adopted,

RUFUS B. RODRIGUEZ