Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Eighteenth Congress
Second Regular Session

House Resolution No. 1671

Introduced by Representative PAUL R. DAZA

RESOLUTION URGING CONCERNED AGENCIES TO ENSURE EFFECTIVE REFORMS AND INNOVATIONS IN THE HEALTH SECTOR IN THE NEW NORMAL AND VIS-À-VIS THE MANDATE OF THE MANDANAS-GARCIA RULING

WHEREAS, the health sector is facing compounding challenges not just because of the COVID-19 pandemic but also of new and emerging diseases including those caused by the changing climate;

WHEREAS, the devolution of health services beginning 1992—while noble and trailblazing—has been challenging for many LGUs mainly because of lack of resources and technical capacity;

WHEREAS, the lack of resources and technical capacity is now expected to be addressed significantly because of the Mandanas-Garcia ruling beginning in 2022;

WHEREAS, such a positive and much-anticipated ruling necessitates a whole-of-government approach and collaboration particularly with the mandate of Universal Health Care Law (RA 11223);

WHEREAS, the UHC law mandates the automatic enrolment of all Filipinos to the National Health Insurance Program, which is administered by the Philippines Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth);

WHEREAS, the implementation of UHC is still largely challenging, more so, because of the current pandemic;

WHEREAS, two of the most urgent concerns are in the improvement of facilities and healthcare insurance—which should allow the health system to lessen if not eradicate out-of-pocket expenses;

WHEREAS, about fifty-four percent (54%) of the country’s healthcare spending comes from out-of-pocket expenses (DoH, 2016). This means Filipinos still shoulder the largest burden when their loved ones get sick, oftentimes, leading to financial catastrophe;

WHEREAS, the goals of UHC and zero out-of-pocket spending could only be realized if the national health insurance system is working hand-in-hand with public health facilities, mandating adherence to health policies and standards (e.g., The Hospital Benchbook);

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WHEREAS, the improvement of the public health system also requires innovations particularly in human resources, use of technology, governance and transparency, and primary and preventive health care;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the House of Representatives work with relevant agencies such as the Department of Health, PhilHealth, Department of Interior and Local Government, and Department of Budget and Management to ensure full health-related benefits and innovations from the implementation of the Mandanas-Garcia ruling as well as help build capacity of LGU hospitals and other health facilities;

RESOLVED, FURTHER, that the House of Representatives urge DOH and PhilHealth to come up with a nationwide call, framework, and programs for health-related innovations in LGU hospitals and facilities particularly when it comes to human resources, use of technology, governance and transparency, and primary and preventive health care;

RESOLVED, FINALLY, that the House of Representatives urge DoH and PhilHealth to develop innovative and effective capacity building and monitoring systems to ensure that LGU hospitals and facilities are adequately assisted and supported in their compliance to all health-related rules and policies including the Hospital Benchbook.

Adopted,

PAUL R. DAZA
Representative, 1st District of Northern Samar