EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1964

Introduced by Rep. Luisa Lloren Cuaresma
Lone District of Nueva Vizcaya

A RESOLUTION
REQUIRING THE PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION (PHILHEALTH) TO IMMEDIATELY PAY THE UNPAID CLAIMS OF ALL ACCREDITED HOSPITALS IN REGIONS 1, 2 AND THE CORDILLERA ADMINISTRATIVE REGION (CAR)

WHEREAS, the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) is a government-owned and controlled corporation mandated to provide health insurance coverage for Filipinos and reduce the out-of-pocket expenditures of those availing medical care;

WHEREAS, the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PHILHEALTH) is responsible for oversight and administration of public sector insurance schemes, and accredits hospitals which allow their patients to avail of services which would be paid by Philhealth;

WHEREAS, amidst the rising number of active COVID-19 cases in Regions 1, 2 and the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), the continuous and uninterrupted delivery of healthcare services by all hospitals in the area is of paramount importance;

WHEREAS, in order to cater the needs of and accommodate critically ill COVID-19 patients, hospitals in Region 1, 2 and the Cordillera (CAR) even went beyond their capacity, in terms of beds and health personnel, notwithstanding the fact that many of their nurses, doctors, and health care workers also came down with the deadly virus;

WHEREAS, the Private Hospitals Association of the Philippines (PHAPI) claimed that the unpaid amount of claims that healthcare facilities were under "severe financial distress" as PHIHEALTH has so far failed to fully reimburse them for billions worth of coronavirus treatments since March 2020,
which forced some of these hospitals to reduce manpower and resources, thus reducing their capability to treat COVID-19 patients;

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, in order for these hospitals in the affected regions to effectively and efficiently perform their duties of responding to the needs of COVID-19 afflicted patients, and so as not to hinder our health system’s capacity to respond to the ongoing pandemic, there is an urgent need for the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PHILHEALTH) to immediately settle payments due to all the accredited hospitals and health care facilities;

WHEREAS, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte had recently ordered the PhilHealth to expedite the payment of claims of hospitals after the agency acknowledged the delays in the processing of reimbursement claims;

WHEREAS, so that financial difficulties brought about by the unpaid claims will not adversely affect the capability of private hospitals in Region 1, 2, and the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) to comply with the Department of Health (DOH) directive to expand capacity amid the surge in coronavirus disease (Covid-19) cases in these areas, there exists an urgent need for the Philhealth to reimburse them of their claims;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives, to require the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PHILHEALTH) to immediately pay the unpaid claims of all accredited hospitals in Regions 1 and 2, and the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR).

RESOLVED, FURTHER, to direct the House Special Committee on North Luzon Growth Quadrangle to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the unpaid benefit claims of Philhealth to all Hospitals in Region 1, 2 and Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR),

Adopted

LUISA LLOREN CUARESMA