

- Handicapped

Senate OKs mandatory PhilHealth for PWDs

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The Senate approved on third and final reading a bill providing for mandatory Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PhilHealth) coverage for all persons with disabilities (PWDs) in the country.

“Not all accessibility ramps are made of concrete. Some are in the form of policies – like this bill, which allows persons with disability to access health care,” said Senate President Pro Tempore Ralph Recto who sponsored Senate Bill 1391 along with Sens. Joseph Victor Ejercito, chairman of the committee on health, and Risa Hontiveros.

By approving the measure, the Senate was in effect “ordering the building of an accessibility ramp to PhilHealth, which PWDs can use for free,” he added.

Recto stressed that those who physically face barriers in life should be spared from the same obstacles in enrolling and enjoying medical insurance.

He pointed out that, based on official count, one in 50 Filipinos suffers from some form of disability, a figure that would account for about two million PWDs in the country. He said the figure is bigger than the number of enrollees in state colleges today.

Funding for the PhilHealth coverage will come from sin tax revenues.