



Rt. Hon. (Chief) Anayo Nnebe

Awka North/South Federal Constituency Anambra State
DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON SPORTS

LEGISLATIVE BRIEF

LONG TITLE: A Bill for an Act to Amend the National Health Insurance Scheme Act CAP, N42 laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004, (The principal Act) to make it mandatory for every Nigerian to key into the scheme and protect families from financial hardship and for Related Matters.

SHORT TITLE: National Health Insurance Scheme (Amendment) Bill, 2018

SPONSOR: HON ANAYO NNEBE.

BACKGROUND:

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Colleagues, it is with a great sense of duty and responsibility that I lead the debate on this bill that seeks to amend aspects of the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) Act.

The National health Insurance Scheme was established to, among other objectives, ensure that every Nigerian had unfettered access to qualitative and affordable healthcare services, protect families from the financial hardship of huge medical bills, reduce rise in the cost of health care services, as well as ensure equitable distribution of the healthcare costs among different income groups.

OBSERVATION:

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Colleagues, investigation has shown that the poor and vulnerable in the society, who are the target of this scheme, had failed to take full advantage of the health benefits.

In the course of investigation, it was discovered that, not much was done in the area of awareness and sensitization by relevant departments of the scheme.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Colleagues, the development has further denied employees the opportunity to key into the scheme, owing to the failure of most employers to open them to the initiative.

SYNOPSIS:

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Colleagues arising from the many observations made, the Bill seeks to amend the following Sections:

Section 2 sub -section 2(g) of the principal Act, which provided for "one person" to represent the registered Health Maintenance Organization on the Board.

The Amendment is predicated on the fact that HMOs play major roles in the provision of healthcare and medical services to the Nigerian citizens, since the National health insurance scheme is driven through the health maintenance organization which gave quality and cost effective health care services to contributors.

It amended "two persons" shall now oust "one person" as originally provided, for in the principal Act.

Owing to the centrality of women in the health sector, section 2 sub-section (2) of the principal Act, with the insertion of a new sub-section 2 (j) to make provision for "one person" from the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs to be on the Board.

In the same vein, "k" is hereby added to Section 2 sub-section 2, to allow for "one person" from the National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS), to also be on the Board. The youth must be allowed to make inputs that aggregate their concerns.

The Bill also seeks to amend section 16(1) of the Act, by replacing the word "may" with "must".

CONCLUSION:

With over 60 percent of Nigerian citizens living below poverty level, and the effect this has on the socio-economic state of the Nation, it is my hope that this Bill will be accorded accelerated passage.

I therefore urge you Mr. Speaker, Honourable colleagues to please support this Bill that it be read for the second time, Thank you.

Healthcare Service