

May 25, 1975

Forced repatriation of medics opposed

Pro-FMG measure up at NY legislature

Exclusive to Filipino Reporter

ALBANY, May 21—Two resolutions expressing concern over the proposed forced repatriation of foreign medical graduates were introduced today in the Senate and Assembly of the New York Legislature.

The Senate resolution urged that any proceedings for the forced repatriation of foreign medical graduates be "stopped immediately."

The resolution, sponsored by Senator Israel Ruiz, took note of "efforts being made to force the repatriation of graduates of foreign medical schools."

Implementation of this program, the resolution said, would drastically decrease medical service available to people of New York state, pointing out that the availability of state physicians is "actively lacking."

Int the past, the Senate resolution stated, thousands of physicians, interns and residents who are graduates of foreign medical schools "have contributed valuable, competent and dedicated health services to the people of New York state."

A copy of the resolution was proposed to be sent to the bureau of immigration and naturalization in Washington, D.C.

The House resolution, introduced by Assemblyman Alan Hochberg, said it will enlist all its "power of persuasion" to resist any policy which would result in the repatriation of foreign medical graduates.

Both resolutions expressed appreciation for the contribution that foreign-trained physicians, interns and residents to the "health and well-being of the people of New York state."

Four delegates of the Philippine Medical Association in America (PMAA), who motored to this capital to present their side, were introduced in the Senate by Speaker Protempore Louis De Salvo and in the Assembly by Assemblyman Hochberg.

They are Dr. Aurora de Guzman, PMAA president; Dr. Nicolas Lansigan Jr., PMAA past president; Dr. Dominador T. Perido, PMAA Bulletin editor; and Reuben S. Seguritan, legal counsel, who accompanied the group.



SENATE RESOLUTION—Senator Israel Ruiz, third from left, shows a copy of the resolution he introduced in the New York Legislature. He is flanked by members of PMAA delegation, from left, Dr. Dominador T. Perido, Dr. Aurora de Guzman, Senator Ruiz, Dr. Nicolas Lansigan, Jr. and Reuben S. Seguritan, legal counsel, who accompanied the group.

Dr. de Guzman issued this statement:

"This is an initial step toward calling attention to the problems we are now facing. We hope that this will pave the way towards creating a more favorable climate for all foreign medical graduates."

"This will be a long-drawn endeavor," Dr. Lansigan said, "and we will need the moral and financial support of all doctors in the area."

The PMAA delegation said a majority of legisla-

tors has assured the group of bipartisan support for the resolution.