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SENATE

P. S. Res. No. **206**

RECEIVED BY: 

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR VILLAR

RESOLUTION

URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND DEMOGRAPHY TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REPUBLIC ACT 7170 OR THE STATUTE GOVERNING HUMAN ORGAN DONATION VIS-A-VIS THE REPORTED TRADING IN THE INTERNET AND INCREASING CASES OF HUMAN ORGAN TRAFFICKING

Whereas, Article II Section 15 of the Philippine Constitution states, "The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill consciousness among them";

Whereas, Republic Act 7170 of the Organ Donation Act of 1991 was enacted to curtail the increasing statistics of human organ transplants utilizing non-related living donors and the rising trend of foreign national beneficiaries;

Whereas, the Department of Health (DOH) in Administrative Order No. 124, series of 2002 or the "National Policy on Kidney Transplantation From Living Non Related Donors (LNRDs)" dated June 3, 2002, extended the provisions governing transplantations of human organs;

Whereas, the DOH issued an administrative order which placed a ten percent limit on all transplant procedures for foreign recipients in all local hospitals in any given year;

Whereas, the Philippine Society of Nephrology in a statement declared that there were 400 reported kidney transplants from local donors to foreign recipients between the years 2001 and 2005, even when the 10 percent limit for foreign beneficiaries was already enacted;

Whereas, the Philippine Renal Disease Registry noted a drastic increase in the number of kidney transplants in the Philippines, recording only 306 transplants in 2002 to a high statistic of 1,046 transplants in 2007;

Whereas, the University of the East Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Medical Hospital in a report revealed that 51 percent of kidney transplant recipients in the year 2007 were foreigners, where 75 percent of the beneficiaries are Middle Eastern nationals;

Whereas, according to a *BioEdge: BioEthics News from Around the World* report, many depressed areas in the Philippines have been identified as hot spots for kidney and organ trading, which include Baseco, Tondo, Caloocan, Novaliches, Montalban, Carmona, Quezon, Camarines Norte, Masbate, Samar, Surigao, Agusan, Zamboanga, Davao and North Cotabato;


Whereas, in March of 2008, the DOH under the directive of then President Gloria Arroyo, issued a new order imposing a total ban on kidney transplants for foreign recipients;

Whereas, recent discoveries on the development of organ transplant trade revealed that organ sellers, agents and syndicates now utilize the internet in marketing their product, as reported in the "Human Kidneys For Sale Online" article in PinoyAmbisyo Online dated December 15, 2008;

Whereas, there are talks that human organ traffickers are already using online marketing, offering organs to prospective foreign and local buyers which is very alarming because of the threat that the new trend poses since it will be more difficult to seize and prosecute participants in organ trafficking when transactions are already done through the internet; Now therefore be it

RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to urge the Senate Committee on Health and Demography to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the implementation of Republic Act 7170 or the law governing human organ donation vis-à-vis the reported marketing in the internet and the increasing cases of trafficking of human organ.

Adopted,


MANNY VILLAR