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SENATE

P. S. Res. No. 278

RECEIVED BY:     

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INTRODUCED BY SENATOR VILLAR

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**RESOLUTION**

**URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH, WOMEN AND FAMILY RELATIONS TO INQUIRE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ABOUT THE REAL LEVEL OF SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES AND/OR INFECTIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES ESPECIALLY AMONG THE YOUTH, WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF FORMULATING A NATIONAL DATABASE THAT WILL EFFECTIVELY ADDRESS PREVENTION, CONTROL AND ERADICATION OF SEX-RELATED HEALTH ISSUES IN THE COUNTRY**

*Whereas*, sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) are caused by infections that are passed from one person to another during sexual contact;

*Whereas*, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), the more preferred term over STDs, are a major cause of morbidity in the Philippines and although data is currently limited, the incidence of STIs is believed to be higher than what is actually reported;

*Whereas*, the most common forms of STIs are urethritis, genital warts, genital herpes, and gonorrhea, which raise the risk of acquiring infections such as HIV and HPV (human papillomavirus);

*Whereas*, HPV causes genital warts in both men and women; cervical, vaginal, and vulvar cancers in women, and anal and penile cancers in men, while HIV can lead to AIDS;

*Whereas*, there is no fresh data on the real stats on STI because the Philippine AIDS Prevention and Control Act of 1998 does not require physicians to submit reports based on patient records (they can only volunteer to do so) to the Department of Health (DoH);<sup>1</sup>

*Whereas*, the 2005 Sentinel STI Etiologic Surveillance System, a region-specific survey conducted by DoH was “erroneous”, from data collection to the data transmission, as the results were based on mere clinical diagnoses and gathered through a “syndemic” approach;<sup>2</sup>

*Whereas*, in Lucena City, health officials have expressed alarm over the rising cases STD among local youngsters, recording 31 cases (mostly walk-in patients as young as 12 and 13 years old) as of July this year, which had surpassed the average number of victims for the past five years;<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Dr. Marcellano Cruz, Philippine Society of Venereologists, Inc. (PSVI)

<sup>2</sup> Dr. Francisca Roa, PSVI President

<sup>3</sup> Dr. Vincent Martinez, assistant city health officer, said in an interview aired Friday over radio dwCT-FM in Tayabas City

*Whereas*, the statistics available for STI are limited and unreliable to determine the real level and incidence of STIs in the country, as many of those who may have the symptoms of STI self-medicate due to the social stigma attached it, instead of seeking medical attention: Now therefore be it

RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to urge the Senate Committee on Youth, Women and Family Relations to inquire, in aid of legislation, about the real level of sexually transmitted diseases and/or infections in the Philippines especially among the youth, with the objective of formulating a national database that will effectively address prevention, control and eradication of sex-related health issues in the country.

Adopted,



**MANNY VILLAR**  
Senator