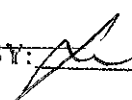




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SENATE
P. S. R. No. **326**

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEES, TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTS THAT ONE OUT OF FIVE
FILIPINOS INFECTED WITH THE HUMAN IMMUNE-VIRUS (HIV) ARE
OVERSEAS WORKERS

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 18 states: "The State affirms labor as a primary social economic force. It shall protect the rights of workers and promote their welfare";

WHEREAS, Article 2, Section 15 of the same provides: "The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them";

WHEREAS, various news reports last 30 November 2010 stated that a total of 1,501 OFWs have tested positive for HIV, comprising 26 percent of the 5,729 reported cases in the National Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) Registry, as of the end of October, according to the Trade Union Council of the Philippines (TUCP);

WHEREAS, the report added that 75 percent or 1,127 of the HIV-positive overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) were men, and that ninety six percent were infected through sexual contact;

WHEREAS, the TUCP said that OFWs are particularly vulnerable to HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases because they are exposed to foreign cultures that tend to abet high-risk behavior, including casual sex;

WHEREAS, it was also reported that Filipino sailors were exceptionally susceptible, after spending lengthy periods at sea because they were often deluged by commercial sex workers at their foreign ports of call, and they have the money to pay for the services;

WHEREAS, Congress should consider the following proposals from the TUCP in formulating the country's health policies especially for OFWs, which are related to the discussion on Senate Bill No. 2378 or Reproductive Health Act of 2010:

- have the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) include AIDS preventive education in the free seminars for departing workers;
- have the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) invest in activities that would raise AIDS awareness among OFWs and their families here; and
- mandate the inclusion of AIDS preventive education in all bargaining contract agreements between management and union;

WHEREAS, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the proper Senate committees to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation on the reports that one out of five Filipinos infected with the human immune-virus are overseas workers.

Adopted,

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

/ptmt