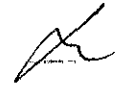


FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Second Regular Session )

9 MAY 21 PC:19

S E N A T E

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INTRODUCED BY SENATOR VILLAR

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**RESOLUTION**

**URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND OTHER CONCERNED GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITIES TO REVIEW THE INITIATIVES BEING DRAWN FOR HEALTH CARE AND BASIC SERVICES TO FACILITATE THE READINESS OF THE COUNTRY TO COMBAT HIGH- PROFILE DISEASES AND HEALTH EMERGENCIES PARTICULARLY THE TIMELY OUTBREAK OF THE AH1N1 VIRUS**

*Whereas*, Article 11, Section 15 of the Philippine Constitution stresses the primary role of the government to ensure the provision of adequate health care services as stated, “[t]he State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them;”

*Whereas*, the epidemic outbreak of a virus strain popularly known as the Swine Influenza or Swine Flu, scientifically as AH1N1 continues to pose a health scare across nations as the World Health Organization (WHO) confirms 10,243 people already contaminated with the virus on the recent count on May 20, 2009;

*Whereas*, the number of victims continues to soar since its first outbreak when a victim in Mexico died positively of the AH1N1 virus strain;

*Whereas*, the continuous spread of the virus has called for the urgency of a meeting of the 193-member states comprising the WHO to map out possible treatments and strategies to combat what the organization deems as a global flu endemic;

*Whereas*, countries across the globe have armed their constituents with contingency measures to combat the spread of the disease;

*Whereas*, the Philippines, although confident in the Department of Health’s (DOH) persistent claims of being free from the swine flu virus contamination has been consistent in feeding the public with precautionary procedures and information for the awareness to combat the disease;

*Whereas*, Oxfam International (Oxfam), a non-governmental organization of 13 confederates lobbying for social justice and the elimination of poverty had just released a statement stressing the vulnerability of poor countries to combat the spread of swine flu resolutely because of these countries’ lack of appropriate health programs including even the basic health care;

*Whereas*, the press statement of Oxfam explicated that the availability of basic health care for the public is a cornerstone in providing for an effective protection against diseases, especially high-prone ones such as the timely outbreak of the swine flu;

*Whereas*, economist Leonor Briones, Oxfam Ambassador to the G8 Summit correlates that diseases such as cholera, dysentery, malaria among others still continue to thrive in the Philippines when these have already been under the control of most countries;

*Whereas*, the inadequacy of proper health care implies the lack of the country to address the basic health care which counts as a primary necessity that the government should give its citizens;

*Whereas*, the government therefore should consider investing in free public health care that will provide the citizens protection against high-profile diseases such as the swine flu;

*Whereas*, State agencies and departments concerned in monitoring the health of the public should be at the forefront not only in ensuring that the public is safe from virus contamination but in ensuring that initiatives are allocated and pursued by concerned agents, such that:

- Adequate policies and proper budget allocations as to the improvement of medicine and health care services are enact and pursued by the legislative
- Basic health care should be prioritized by the government, focusing on free medical provision for the general public
- Consideration of the suggestion of Briones to increase public spending in the country as its current levels are not at par with the standards that are internationally applied, referring that a bulk of stimulus spending must be allocated to health and other basic services; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to urge the Department of Health and other concerned government instrumentalities to review the initiatives being drawn for health care and basic services to facilitate the readiness of the country to combat high-profile diseases and health emergencies particularly the timely outbreak of the AH1N1 virus.

Adopted,

  
MANNY VILLAR  
Senator