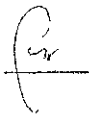


FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Second Regular Session )



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**SENATE**  
P.S. Res. No. 593

RECEIVED BY: 

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Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

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**RESOLUTION**  
**DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND DEMOGRAPHY TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, *IN AID OF LEGISLATION*, INTO THE PREPAREDNESS OF THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT IN THE FACE OF A POTENTIAL RESURGENCE OF THE DEADLY AVIAN INFLUENZA A/(H5N1)**

**WHEREAS**, Article II, Section 15 of the Constitution provides that the State shall protect and promote the health of the people and instill health consciousness among them;

**WHEREAS**, the United Nations has cautioned of a potential resurgence of the deadly bird flu virus, stating that wild bird migrations had brought the illness back to previously virus-free countries and that a mutant strain was spreading in Asia;

**WHEREAS**, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization already issued a statement that a mutant strain of H5N1, which apparently can sidestep defenses of existing vaccines, is now spreading in China and Vietnam;

**WHEREAS**, the World Health Organization has reported of a 6-year-old Cambodian girl who died from bird flu last 14 August 2011, the eighth person to die from H5N1 avian influenza this year in Cambodia;

**WHEREAS**, neighboring Asian countries such as Vietnam has suspended its springtime poultry vaccination for this year, since most of the northern and central parts of the country where the virus is prevalent have been infected by the new strain;

**WHEREAS**, the FAO further states that bird migrations over the past two years have brought H5N1 to countries that used to be free from virus for the past several years, including Israel, the Palestinian territories, Bulgaria, Romania, Nepal and Mongolia;

**WHEREAS**, FAO's chief veterinary Juan Lubroth has said in a statement that "Wild birds may introduce the virus, but people's actions in poultry production and marketing spread it.";

**WHEREAS**, the FAO is recommending greater preparedness and surveillance in fighting this disease;

**WHEREAS**, the virus was eliminated from most of the 63 countries infected at its peak in 2006, but remained prevalent in six countries: Bangladesh, China, Egypt, India, Indonesia and Vietnam;

**WHEREAS**, FAO has stated that the number of outbreaks in poultry and wild bird populations shriveled down to 302 in mid-2008 from a high of 4,000, but outbreaks have risen progressively since, with almost 800 cases reported from 2010 to 2011;

**WHEREAS**, the WHO reported that in 2011 alone, there has already been 48 confirmed human cases of Avian Influenza A/(H5N1), with 24 deaths;

**WHEREAS**, the total number of confirmed human cases of Avian Influenza A/(H5N1) from 2003 to 2011 is 564, with 330 deaths;

**WHEREAS**, the Philippine government has recognized the urgency of fighting this serious health threat in the past by issuing Executive Order No. 280, which defined the powers, functions, and responsibilities of government agencies in response to the Avian Influenza or Bird Flu Virus;

**WHEREAS**, the Avian Influenza remains a constant and deadly threat to the general population and should be dealt with preparedness and vigilance;

**WHEREAS**, in view of recent developments and the potential resurgence of this virus, there is a need to assess the efficiency of existing Anti-Bird Flu Programs in the Philippines;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, as it is hereby resolved, to direct the Senate Committee on Health and Demography to conduct an inquiry, *In Aid of Legislation*, into the preparedness of the Philippine Government in the face of a potential resurgence of the deadly Avian Influenza A/(H5N1).

**Adopted,**

  
**MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID**  
Senator