


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SENATE
P.S. RES. NO. 601

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Manny B. Villar

RESOLUTION

URGING THE COMMITTEES ON TRADE AND COMMERCE AND HEALTH AND DEMOGRAPHY TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION, TO INQUIRE ON THE AVAILABILITY, REASONABLE PRICING AND ACCESSIBILITY OF CURRENT DENGUE TEST KITS TO THE MARKET WITH THE END IN VIEW OF REDUCING DENGUE EPIDEMICS IN THE COUNTRY.

Whereas, the 1987 Constitution states that “[t]he State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them (Article II, Section 15);”

Whereas, Article XIII Section 12 states that “[t]he State shall establish and maintain an effective food and drug regulatory system and undertake appropriate health, manpower development, and research, responsive to the country's health needs and problems”;

Whereas, in the Philippines, from January to July this year, the Department of Health (DoH) has recorded 38,876 dengue cases and 226 deaths;

Whereas, Dengue Fever and Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever (a more severe form) are the most common mosquito-borne viral diseases in the world;

Whereas, if the dengue fever develops into its more serious forms of dengue hemorrhagic fever or dengue shock syndrome, hospitalization is a must as more supportive treatment like intravenous fluid replacement is required to prevent shock—a state in which not enough blood and oxygen reach important organs like the brain and kidneys;

Whereas, several Dengue detection kits are now available in the market to detect whether a person has dengue or not;

Whereas, Dengue Rapid test kits are reported to cost P1,000 or even P2,000 in some hospitals, but the result can be made available in 15 minutes;

Whereas, the cheaper Dengue tests, which more hospitals commonly use, are based on the detection of specific dengue virus antibodies, but this kind of tests rely on antibodies that are only produced by the patient several days after the first clinical signs appear—four to six days for a primary infection—which may not be acceptable for early screening;

Whereas, although there is no specific treatment for dengue, medical practitioners believe that early diagnosis is critical to fighting the disease as not only would this prevent further epidemic cases but also allow an early recovery since doctors are informed much earlier and enable them to provide the best medical care possible;

Whereas, if one is found to be positive for dengue, the fever could be treated by anti-pyretics like paracetamol, while pain in the bone may be treated with analgesics or pain-killing tablets; further, patients with Dengue are aptly monitored for dehydration as patients are usually advised to drink plenty of fluids;

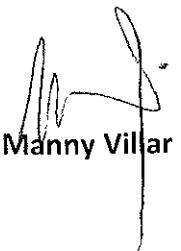
Whereas, current testing methods of hospitals, albeit cheaper, may not be too helpful if early diagnosis of Dengue is desired;

Whereas, considering the potential of saving of more lives, and easier combating of Dengue epidemics, it is opportune that current tests used by hospitals be reviewed;

Whereas, further, considering the importance of the Dengue rapid test kits in protecting the lives of the Filipinos, a study should be made to make these kits be made readily available to meet the demand of the hospitals and patients alike at a more reasonable price;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to urge the Committees on Trade and Commerce and Health and Demography to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation, to inquire on the availability, reasonable pricing and accessibility of current dengue test kits to the market with the end in view of reducing dengue epidemics in the country.

Adopted.



Manny Villar