

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

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

9 DEC 15 P4:12

SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 1529

RECEIVED BY



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INTRODUCED BY SENATOR MANNY VILLAR

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RESOLUTION

URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND DEMOGRAPHY TO CONDUCT A STUDY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE INCREASING INCIDENCE OF HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS INFECTION IN THE COUNTRY, WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF LAUNCHING A MASSIVE INFORMATION CAMPAIGN, INCREASE FUNDS FOR DISEASE RESEARCH AND CONTROL, PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO PRIVATE SECTOR EFFORTS TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEM AND RECOMMEND APPROPRIATE LEGISLATION.

WHEREAS, Quoting from Article II, Section 15 it is provided that:

*"The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them."*

WHEREAS, pursuant to this principle, the State through the Legislature has an obligation to ensure that the people are adequately protected from disease and their right to health is upheld;

WHEREAS, Over the past 27 years, nearly 25 million people have died from the Human Immunodeficiency Virus and AIDS around the world;

Whereas, in the Philippines, a total of 4,218 HIV cases have been recorded, 828 of them has progressed into AIDS and 314 of the infected individuals have dies;

WHEREAS, the 2009 Integrated HIV Behavioral and Serological Surveillance (IHBSS) conducted by the Department of Health showed that the overall prevalence of cases in the most at risk population is 530 per 100,000 population which is more higher than the 2007 IHBSS which is 99 per 100,000 population;

WHEREAS, the foregoing figures show a continued increase of persons infected by the disease in the past two years in the Philippines contrary to the decreasing number of new infections worldwide since 2001;

WHEREAS, HIV causes debilitating illness and premature death in people during their prime years of life and has devastated families and communities, it diminishes a person's ability to support, work and provide for his or her family;

WHEREAS, according to the Department of Health, carriers of the disease are likened to a walking time bomb which may spread the disease to others specially if he or she doesn't know his or her HIV status;

**WHEREAS**, lack of information and awareness on the disease, lack of research and the availability of adequate means to control transmission greatly contributes to its spread;

**WHEREAS**, the efforts to combat the spread of the disease must be strengthened in order to expose knowledge of the disease to a greater number of people specially the high risk individuals;

**WHEREAS**, due to the increase of the number infected by the disease, it becomes necessary for the Senate to look into measures to address the spread of HIV and AIDS to protect the public from the risk of contracting the disease as well as ways to help private sector efforts to address the problem; WHEREFORE, BE IT

**RESOLVED**, as it hereby resolved by the Senate of the Philippines to urge the Senate Committee on Health and Demography to conduct a study, in aid of legislation, on the increasing number of HIV infection in the country, with the objective of launching a massive information campaign, increase funds for disease research and control, provide assistance to private sector efforts to address the problem and recommend appropriate legislation.

Adopted,



MANNY VILLAR