

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

SENATE
P. S. R. No. 879

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID
OF LEGISLATION, ON THE NEED TO ADDRESS BULLYING IN SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 13 provides: "The State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being. It shall inculcate in the youth patriotism and nationalism, and encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs";

WHEREAS, various media on 24 September 2012 reported that a parent of Colegio de San Agustin (CSA) student pointed a gun at his son's schoolmate and threatened to shoot him after the latter punched his son;

WHEREAS, it was reported that Jamie Garcia, victim of gun-toting father, Allan Canete Bantiles, punched the latter's son after enduring more than a month of bullying from Bantiles' son, JB;

WHEREAS, according to reports, Garcia's butt and genitals were often poked by Bantiles' son and by another classmate;

WHEREAS, it was reported that when Garcia could no longer take the bullying, he stabbed one of his tormentors with a ballpen and punched JB in the face; as a result, Garcia was taken to the Head Teacher's office; while waiting inside the room with one of the admin staff and three other faculty members, Allan Canete Bantiles, barged into the room, grabbed him by the collar, and afterwards, pointed a gun at him;

WHEREAS, due to the incident, Garcia was suspended for five days, while the other boys alleged to have started incident only got two to three days suspension;

WHEREAS, it was reported that CSA officials ordered Bantiles never to set foot on CSA again, while Garcia's father moved to have the gun-toting dad's car pass cancelled;

WHEREAS, it was alleged that Garcia's dad felt that CSA fell short in its response to the incident;

WHEREAS, although legal remedies are available to victims of bullying, such do not effectively curtail the rise of incidents of bullying in schools;

WHEREAS, the legislature should create preventive measures that will address bullying inside campuses, taking into account that the victims and the bullies are usually minors;

WHEREAS, schools should create a policy to address the existence of bullying in their respective institutions; such a policy should implement a process for addressing incidents of bullying in school and provide remedies that will allow parents or guardians of students to file written reports of suspected bullying;

WHEREAS, in addition, school administrators should be mandated to act immediately on anonymous reports of bullying to ascertain the truth of such reports and take steps to stop such acts of bullying;

WHEREAS, the welfare of the victim, as well as the bully, should be of paramount consideration; thus, proceedings concerning the victim and the bully should be treated with confidentiality;

WHEREAS, the Department of Education and the Commission on Higher Education should be enjoined to be more proactive in assisting schools on creating anti-bullying committees and anti-bullying policies, and in fostering bully-free environments;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the proper Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the need to address bullying in schools.'

Adopted,

act.

MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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