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SENATE  
P.S. Res. 236

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Introduced by Senator Poe

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**RESOLUTION**  
**DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND DEMOGRAPHY TO CONDUCT A COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON REPORTED PREVALENCE OF DIABETES AMONG FILIPINO CHILDREN AND TEENAGERS, WITH THE INTENTION OF REVIEWING GOVERNMENT EFFORTS, AMENDING EXISTING RELEVANT LAWS AND PROVIDE FUNDS TO COMBAT THE DISEASE**

Whereas, Section 15 of Article II of the 1987 Constitution provides, "The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them";

Whereas, very recently, a newspaper report<sup>1</sup> indicate an alarming prevalence of diabetes among Filipino children:

1. THE prevalence of diabetes among adults in the last 10 years is very alarming and it is now becoming widespread among children today. Common among children under the age of 16 is type 1 diabetes, though some cases of type 2 diabetes are also rampant among children and young adults.
2. The Philippine Diabetes Association (PDA) reported that the disease is not only afflicting middle age, but also occurring among high school and elementary students.
3. The disease is fatal and can result to brain damage if not detected at an early age.
4. Though the disease is not very common among childhood, there have been rising reports of type 1 diabetes cases worldwide among 14 years old and below that develop the disease each year. But still, the Philippines has been stumpy on this matter compared to other countries such as Finland, Scotland, England and Japan as cases of childhood diabetes there is increasing every year.
5. The Philippine Society of Pediatric Metabolism and Endocrinology estimated that at least 8 percent of Filipino children could be diabetic. The Society through its President noted that this number has increased since the estimated number of diabetic children 10 years ago was 2 percent to 3 percent only.

Whereas, latest statistics showed that more than nine (9) million Filipinos are suffering from the disease at present ;

Whereas, more and more children and teenagers are being diagnosed with type 2 diabetes that is usually detected among middle aged group between 40 and 50 years old;

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<sup>1</sup> "Prevalence of Diabetes Among Filipino Children", Abigail Lumugdan, as published in Business Mirror, July 25, 2013

Whereas, diabetes may cause kidney disease, heart attack, stroke, eye disease and nerve disease that may lead to the amputation of the lower limbs;

Whereas, the complications of the disease can still be prevented by adequate physical fitness and appropriate diet but for the disease to be controlled it will require high cost for maintenance drugs and regular blood test;

Whereas, the Philippine Center for Diabetes Education Foundation cited that diabetes as a disease is so complex and so demanding that proper education becomes an important and integral part of diabetes treatment;

Whereas, a review of the present law and main policy on the matter, Republic Act 8191 otherwise known as the "National Diabetes Act of 1996" is in order to achieve its goal of providing measures and control of diabetes in the country;

Whereas, the alarming increase in the number of Filipino children and teenagers affected with this disease requires an immediate response in order for the problem to be properly addressed and adequately controlled: Now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, To Direct the Senate Committee on Health and Demography to conduct a comprehensive assessment, in aid of legislation, on the reported prevalence of diabetes among Filipino children and teenagers, with the intention of reviewing government efforts, possibly amending existing laws and provide funds to combat the disease.

Adopted,

  
GRACE POE