

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



Senate
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 289

RECEIVED BY. *js*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE, TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID
OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED INADEQUACIES IN THE REGULATION OF
STEM CELL THERAPY IN THE COUNTRY

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 11, Section 14 provides that "The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them";

WHEREAS, the *Philippine Daily Inquirer*, in its 25 September 2013 issue, reported that the Philippine College of Physicians (PCP), the umbrella organization of Filipino doctors specializing in internal medicine, said it was disappointed with the Food and Drug Authority (FDA) and Department of Health for failing to decisively act on the dangers posed by unregulated stem cell therapy in the country, and that the regulation of stem cell therapy is sorely adequate and grossly misleading;

WHEREAS, PCP reportedly said that the recent guidelines released by the FDA fell short and will not stop the proliferation of stem cell therapy for ailments that were not subjected to scientific study'

WHEREAS, according to PCP President, Dr. Prescilla Caguioa, the organization will not stop until stem cell therapy undergoes scientific studies to prove its safety, quality, and efficacy;

WHEREAS, the PCP official also reportedly said that the organization will not allow the promotion and use of stem cell therapy to helpless and unknowing patients and their desperate families;

WHEREAS, PCP officials reportedly warned that the FDA guidelines might be used by unscrupulous people to continue offering "unproven" steam cell therapies to the public, noting that the FDA rules cited the following as recognized standards of healthcare: hematopoietic (pertaining to the formation and development of blood cells) stem cell transplantation; corneal resurfacing with limbal stem cells; and skin regeneration with epidermal stem cells;

WHEREAS, PCP officials reportedly said that the FDA guidelines are grossly misleading because the FDA gave recognition to these procedures but failed to specify the ailments or indications where these were proven to be safe and effective;

WHEREAS, PCP officials reportedly pointed out that the International Society for Stem Cell Research (ISSCR) was concerned that stem cell treatments were being marketed to consumers around the world without safeguards in place to ensure the safety or likely

effectiveness of experimental treatments, or truthfulness of claims about so-called proven therapies;

WHEREAS, PCP officials reportedly said that it is the responsibility of the government to inform the public that the effectiveness and safety of stem cell therapy are still unproven in heart, lung, neurologic, skin, rheumatologic, kidney and gastrointestinal diseases, diabetes mellitus, hypertension, autism, cancer, aging and aesthetics, HIV, AIDS and other conditions;

WHEREAS, PCP officials reportedly claim that the public needs to be protected against moneyed marketing and public relations machinery of doctors and hospitals peddling stem cell treatment;

WHEREAS Congress should formulate measures to curb unscrupulous practices by business entities, and consider raising punitive provisions for violating relevant laws that endanger the health and well being of the people;

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 alleged inadequacies in the regulation of stem cell therapy in the country.

Adopted,

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
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