

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. 438

RECEIVED BY: *ji*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY,
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED MEASLES OUTBREAK IN METRO
MANILA

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 13, Section 11 states that, "The State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost. There shall be priority for the needs of the under-privileged, sick, elderly, disabled, women, and children. The State shall endeavor to provide free medical care to paupers";

WHEREAS, a *GMA News* online article entitled "DOH declares measles outbreaks in 5 Metro Manila cities" posted last 4 January 2014 reported that the Department of Health (DOH) declared measles outbreaks in five cities in Metro Manila, and the number of patients infected by the viral disease continues to rise as of press time;

WHEREAS, it was reported in the article that the following areas declared outbreaks: Dagat-dagatan and Bagong Barrio of Calocan City, Talon Singko and Talon Dos of Las Piñas City, Quiapo, Port Area, Sta. Mesa, Binondo and Sta. Cruz in Manila, Alabang of Muntinlupa City and Parañaque City;

WHEREAS, the article said that the DOH has recorded 744 confirmed cases of measles in Metro Manila alone between 14 December 2013 to 1 January 2014, and a total of 1,724 measles cases have been reported across the country for 2013, 21 of which led to death;

WHEREAS, the National Epidemiology Center head Dr. Enrique Tayag reportedly appealed to parents to bring their children to health centers for free vaccination in health centers nationwide;

WHEREAS, although measles is a viral disease that commonly infects children, it can also affect adults because it is highly contagious;

WHEREAS, there is a need for stricter implementation and refining of existing laws to prevent more casualties and spread of measles, ensure the safety and protection especially of children, and aid the parents and health workers in the prevention, treatment and control the spread ;

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 reported outbreak of measles in Metro Manila.

Adopted,

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
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