

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. 489

RECEIVED BY *ji*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, TO AMEND AND STRENGTHEN THE COUNTRY'S HEALTH POLICY WITH REGARD TO CANCER PREVENTION, TREATMENT, AND CARE, BASED ON THE RECENT WORLD CANCER REPORT FROM THE INTERNATIONAL AGENCY FOR RESEARCH ON CANCER

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

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 13, Section 11 further provides: "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";

WHEREAS, Agence France-Presse reported last 4 February 2014 that, according to the World Cancer Report by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) under the United Nations (UN), new cases of cancer will rise by half by 2030, reaching 21.6 million per year compared to 14 million in 2012;

WHEREAS, the IARC report pointed out that new cancer cases will likely rise to 19.3 million in 2025, with 11.4 million deaths; by 2035, new cases would number about 24 million per year;

WHEREAS, it was reported that cancer overtook heart disease as the number one cause of death in the world in 2011;

WHEREAS, the report also said that cancer deaths will likely rise from 8.2 million to 13 million per year as the world's population grows and ages and more people adopt risky lifestyle habits;

WHEREAS, the World Cancer Report found in its survey that most common cancers in men attack the lungs (16.7%), prostate (15%), colorectum (10%), stomach (8.5%), and liver (7.5%); most common cancers in women, on the other hand, attack the breast (25.2%), colorectum (9.2%), lung (8.7%), cervix (7.9%), and stomach (4.8%);

WHEREAS, the IARC report saw a regional imbalance in cancer cases, as more than 60% of the world's cancer cases and 70% of deaths occurred in Africa, Asia and Central and South America;

WHEREAS, according to the World Cancer Report, cancers of the breast, colorectum and prostate were more typical of the industrialized world, while those of the liver, stomach and oesophagus more common in low-income countries;

WHEREAS, World Health Organization (WHO) Director General Margaret Chan, whose agency oversees the IARC, said the overall impact from cancer would unquestionably hit developing countries the hardest;

WHEREAS, the WHO official also said that developing countries are already grappling with poverty-associated cancers caused by infection or disease, in addition to cancers caused by high tobacco and alcohol use, eating processed foods, and lack of exercise;

WHEREAS, IARC director Christopher Wild said the focus should be on prevention, since all countries will struggle to cope with the spiraling costs of cancer treatment and care;

WHEREAS, the World Cancer report said the total, annual economic cost of cancer to the world was estimated at about \$1.16 trillion in 2010, and pointed out that about half of all cancers could be avoided through prevention, early detection, and treatment;

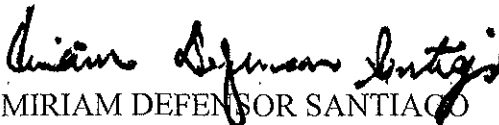
WHEREAS, according to the report, prevention includes vaccination against hepatitis B and the human papillomavirus, which can reduce cancers of the liver and cervix, the promotion of physical activity to counter obesity – thought to be a factor in bowel and breast cancer, and tougher anti-tobacco campaigns;

WHEREAS, the report also said that the sales drive of Big Tobacco is inextricably linked to the surge in lung cancer, as lung cancer was the biggest killer globally with 19.4% of the total, followed by cancer of the liver with 9.1% and stomach with 8.8%;

WHEREAS, the IARC reported that a smoking epidemic was evolving in poor countries, potentially impeding human development by consuming scarce resources, increasing pressures on already weak health-care systems, and inhibiting national productivity;

WHEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE to direct the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, to amend and strengthen the country's health policy with regard to cancer prevention, treatment, and care, based on the recent World Cancer Report from the International Agency for Research on Cancer.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
RP

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