

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



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SENATE  
P. S. R. No. 491

RECEIVED

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED PRIVATIZATION OF FABELLA HOSPITAL, WHICH CAN LEAD TO DISCRIMINATION IN PROVIDING INEXPENSIVE MOTHER-AND-CHILD HEALTH SERVICES AMONG THE POOR

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 15 provides, "The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them";

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 12 provides, "The State recognizes the sanctity of family life and shall protect and strengthen the family as a basic autonomous social institution. It shall equally protect the life of the mother and the life of the unborn from conception...";

WHEREAS, on 28 January 2014, InterAksyon.com reported that the Dr. Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital, which serves at least 100 pregnant mothers every day, will be privatized to allow for the development of a medical tourism market that caters to foreigners seeking beauty enhancement treatments;

WHEREAS, Gabriela Women's Party Rep. Emmi de Jesus claimed that the plan to privatize Fabella will further marginalize the poor and prevent them from accessing affordable health care;

WHEREAS, the labor union, Alliance of Health Workers, reportedly said that six bidders participated in the June 2013 public bidding for the building of the new Fabella Hospital and that the former city jail compound which the hospital is leasing will be rebuilt as a commercial property of the Light Railway Transit;

WHEREAS, the new building at the Department of Health compound, where Fabella Hospital will transfer, is reportedly intended for only 400 patients, almost half of the 700 beds in the current location;

WHEREAS, the report also said that the reduced bed count for Fabella Hospital is intended for the setting up of beauty treatment centers;

WHEREAS, De Jesus claimed that the reduced number of beds will ensure further hikes in the maternal mortality rate that made the Philippines fail the Millennium Development Goal to reduce risks of pregnancies and births;

WHEREAS, she also reportedly said that in a public-private-partnership, the welfare of the majority of poor Filipinos will be made the last priority, while high profit rates will be guaranteed in the contract with the private firms that take over the hospitals;

WHEREAS, according to De Jesus, the government is already banning home births and passing city ordinances penalizing midwives who provide cheap birthing services; thus, the privatization of the hospital will ensure that poor mothers will experience further hardships in seeking inexpensive natal care for their families;

WHEREAS, it is imperative for the State to provide free social and health services to its people, especially those who are destitute; there should therefore be an increase in public hospitals and not an increase in the number of those privatized;

WHEREAS, the privatization of Fabella hospital spells the failure of the government to protect and provide for the right of mothers and children to have access to inexpensive and quality health care;

WHEREAS, to move Fabella Hospital to a smaller area smacks of callousness and a lack of concern and empathy of the government for its constituents;

WHEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE to direct the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, privatization of Fabella hospital, which can lead to discrimination in providing inexpensive mother-and-child health services among the poor.

Adopted,

  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO  
PP

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