

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



'14 APR 24 P3:31

SENATE
P. S. R. No. 611

RECEIVED BY: [Signature]

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN
INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED RISE OF
AUTISM CASES IN THE PHILIPPINES

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, autism is a developmental disorder with a range of difficulties in social, emotional and communication skills which occurs in all racial, ethnic and socio-economic groups;

WHEREAS, the *Manila Bulletin*, in its 20 April 2014 issue, reported that cases of people with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) have increased steadily in the past several decades with the figures almost doubling in the last six years in the Philippines, according to the group Autism Speaks Foundation;

WHEREAS, Autism Speaks Foundation President Erlinda Borrromeo reportedly cited data recently released by the United States-based Center for Disease Control that the number of cases has increased to 1 in 110 children in 2008 to 1 in 68 in 2014, from just 0.5 cases in every 1000 children in the 1980s;

WHEREAS, in the Philippines, Borrromeo reportedly said that from 500,000 cases recorded in 2008, recent international and local data put the figure to 1 in 100 or one million people having the condition nationwide or double the original figure;

WHEREAS, Borrromeo claimed that the number could be much higher since there are still a lot of areas in the Philippines not covered by the study;

WHEREAS, Borrromeo reportedly noted that health experts attributed the rise to earlier and better detection methods but noted genetics and environmental factors could also be among the causes;

WHEREAS, the government needs to address the situation by setting up a comprehensive program for treatment and monitoring of autism cases in the

country, as well as education for families with autism cases to guide them towards proper care treatment;

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 rise of autism cases in the Philippines.

Adopted,

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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