

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



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SENATE  
P.S.R No. 724

RECEIVED BY: f

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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 STATEMENT FROM THE TRADE UNION CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO DECLARE A NATIONAL EMERGENCY DUE TO THE RISE OF CASES OF HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS INFECTIONS IN THE COUNTRY

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 Philstar.com posted a news article on 28 May 2014, on the statement from the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP) urging the Department of Health (DOH) to declare a national emergency over the rise of cases of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infections in the country and to put a stop the spread of the disease;

WHEREAS, TUCP spokesman Alan Tanjusay reportedly said the group also hope that with the declaration, the government would carry out an aggressive and surefire intervention to stop the spread of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS);

WHEREAS, Tanjusay reportedly noted that in the 2014 Global AIDS Response Progress Report to be submitted by the government to the United Nations, the country has failed to meet the target to reduce the number of HIV and AIDS cases to less than 1 percent of the country's general population by 2015;

WHEREAS, the cited report, which was prepared by the National Epidemiology Center (NEC), showed that of the 1,115 sex workers tested within the first four months of this year, 20 or 1.8 percent were found to have HIV infection compared with only 26 or 0.27 percent out of 9,797 tested in 2012;

WHEREAS, according to the news article, at least 46.1 percent of those who inject drugs were also reportedly infected with HIV during the first quarter of the year;

WHEREAS, it was said that the most-at-risk and vulnerable populations are people living with HIV patients, sex workers, men having sex with men, people who inject drugs and overseas Filipino workers;

WHEREAS, there is a need for the government to strengthen its campaign on the prevention, control, and treatment of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infections through possible revision of the Philippine AIDS Prevention and Control Act based on the recent findings and developments surrounding the disease;

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 statement from the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines urging the Department of Health to declare a national emergency due to the rise of cases human immunodeficiency virus infections in the country.

Adopted,

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*Miriam Defensor Santiago*  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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