

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

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SENATE
P. S. R. No. **49**

RECEIVED BY: _____

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION
INTO THE ALLEGED CRISIS IN MEDICAL EDUCATION IN THE COUNTRY AS
EVIDENCED BY THE DECREASE IN THE NUMBER OF
MEDICAL BOARD PASSERS

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article XIV, Section 1 states that the State shall protect and promote the rights of all citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all;

WHEREAS, according to reports by the *Philippine Star* dated 13 August 2004, the country is experiencing a growing crisis in medical education which is evidenced by the continuous decline in the percentage of students passing the Board Exams for Medicine;

WHEREAS, Dr. Jose Ramirez, head of the Philippine Regulatory Commission, said that the medical board has noted with increasing concern the continuous decline in the passing average percentage;

WHEREAS, according to the statistics provided by the Commission on Higher Education, the passing average percentage of medical board passers are as follows:

- (1) In 1997 the passing percentage was 71%;
- (2) In 1998 the passing percentage was 65%;
- (3) In 1999 the passing percentage was 69%;
- (4) In 2000 the passing percentage was 65%;
- (5) In 2001 the passing percentage was 62%;

WHEREAS, Dr. Ramirez reported that the passing percentage dropped to 55.6% in the year 2003;

WHEREAS, these facts reflect the deterioration of the quality of medical education in the country;

WHEREAS, Dr. Ramirez attributes this deterioration to the lowered standards of admission and screening tests in schools of medicine in the country as well as the decline in the quality of education in these said schools; he also noted the proliferation of "fly-by-night" medical schools as one other cause;


WHEREAS, according to Dr. Fernando Sanchez, executive director of the Association of Philippine Medical College, there are presently 36 medical schools

operating in the country this school year; only 19 of which have their own teaching hospitals as required where students could undergo practical application of their course;

WHEREAS, it is important that the country produce competent doctors to provide sufficient healthcare services to the people;

WHEREFORE, be it resolved, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate to direct the Senate Committee of Education to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation on the causes of the decline in the medical board passing percentage.

Approved,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO