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



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S E N A T E P. S. Res. No 1050



Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

## RESOLUTION

CALLING ON THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE GROWING NUMBER OF CASES OF HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY AND ACQUIRED IMMUNODEFICIENCY SYNDROME WITH THE END IN VIEW OF INCREASING PUBLIC AWARENESS THEREON

WHEREAS, further to SRN-483 filed by this representation regarding Human Immunodeficiency Virus ("HIV") and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome ("AIDS") last February 4, 2014, the absence of awareness or lack thereof has become a critical factor in the rise of HIV and AIDS;

WHEREAS, HIV is becoming prevalent in the Philippines that reports have indicated that the Department of Health is expecting the number of people with HIV would exceed 30,000 by year end and this number coincides with 16 HIV incidents being documented daily<sup>1</sup>;

WHEREAS, according to Philippine National AIDS Council ("PNAC") HIV and AIDS epidemic in the country is crossing over to the general population due to the direct causal connection of female sex<sup>2</sup>;

WHEREAS, notwithstanding the lack of support and funding from the Philippine Government, the challenges and barriers to HIV awareness starts from finding out how to increase the number of people taking the HIV test especially among those people who practice high HIV-risk activities, this is according to PNAC<sup>3</sup>;

WHEREAS, another challenge is the misconception of HIV and AIDS, this is according to Kate Montecarlo Cordova, founder and chair of the Association of Transgender People in the Philippines<sup>4</sup>;

WHEREAS, according to Ferchito Avelino, PNAC Secretariat Head, "In the past, we were limited to the MSM (men having sex with men) and PWID (people who inject drugs) population. But now we have the bridge from the high-risk population to the general population. This is a cause for alarm,"<sup>5</sup>;

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Philippine Star Website; http://www.philstar.com/headlines/2014/12/01/1397950/people-living-hiv-campaign-increased-awareness.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> ABS-CBN Website; http://www.abs-cbnnews.com/nation/12/02/14/hiv-aids-crossing-general-population-ph

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Supra [1].

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Supra [2].

WHEREAS, the existence of documented incidents of HIV and AIDS presupposes the existence of undocumented incidents of said diseases;

WHEREAS, considering the foregoing, there is an immediate need of spreading awareness of HIV and AIDS in order to address the prevalence, misconceptions and proactively act in deterring said diseases.

**RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, by the Senate of the Philippines, to conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, on the growing number of cases of human immunodeficiency and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome with the end in view of increasing public awareness thereon.

Adopted,

MARÍA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY

Senator