

SENATE  
P. S. R. No. 1162

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION  
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID  
OF LEGISLATION, TO INVESTIGATE THE INCREASING INCIDENCE OF HEPATITIS B  
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, *Manila Bulletin* on 28 January 2015 reported that the number of Filipinos with Hepatitis B is even larger than the crowd that came out during the visit of Pope Francis to the Philippines;

WHEREAS, according to Eric Ueda, secretary of the Yellow Warriors Society of the Philippines, there are about sixteen million cases of Hepatitis B in the Philippines, or 16 percent of the population are suffering from the disease;

WHEREAS, likewise stated in the report, one in eight adult Filipinos has Hepatitis B, while one in four will develop liver cirrhosis and cancer;

WHEREAS, Dr. Eternity Labio, president of the Hepatology Society of the Philippines, reportedly claimed that in the Philippines, the prevalence of Hepatitis B is double of what is considered high, or 16.7 percent of the population;

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization (WHO) revealed on its website that Hepatitis B is a major global health problem and a potentially life-threatening liver disease that causes liver cirrhosis and eventually lead to liver cancer;

WHEREAS, Labio explained that the liver functions as the refinery, filtration, repackaging and detoxification center of the body;

WHEREAS, Hepatitis B virus can cause an acute illness with symptoms that last several weeks, such as jaundice (yellow skin pigmentation) dark urine, extreme fatigue, nausea, vomiting and abdominal pain;

WHEREAS, Labio further explained that Hepatitis B is the common cause of liver cancer and ranks as the fourth common cancer in the Philippines and it the second leading cause of cancer death;

WHEREAS, in observance of the "Liver Cancer and Viral Hepatitis Awareness and Prevention Month," organizations advocating for the prevention of Hepatitis B urged the Department of Health (DOH) to heed the call of World Health Organization (WHO) to help control the increasing incidence of Hepatitis B in the country;


WHEREAS, the DOH has the capacity to plan and implement programs to prevent, if not to eradicate, the spread of the deadly Hepatitis B;

WHEREAS, it is the duty and responsibility of the DOH to increase public awareness on how to prevent the occurrence of Hepatitis B especially in health institutions like hospitals and other facilities;

WHEREAS, the DOH should promote Hepatitis B vaccine by making it affordable for everyone in the community to protect the people from acquiring the deadly liver infection;

WHEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE to direct the proper Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, to investigate the increasing incidence of Hepatitis B in the Philippines.

Adopted,

  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO  
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