

SENATE

P.S Resolution No. 62

---

Introduced by Senator LUISA "LOI" P EJERCITO ESTRADA

---

**RESOLUTION**  
**DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND DEMOGRAPHY TO**  
**INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE ALLEGATION THAT SENIOR**  
**CITIZENS ARE UNABLE TO AVAIL OF 20% DISCOUNT ON MEDICINES**

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 15 expressly mandates the State to "protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them."

WHEREAS, *The Daily Tribune*, in its Metro Section dated 30 August 2004 reported the alleged failure of an estimated four (4) million senior citizens to avail themselves of the twenty percent (20%) discount on medicines, contrary to the appropriate provisions of the Expanded Senior Citizens Act, a.k.a. RA 9253, which explicitly grants for the same privilege;

WHEREAS, while drug stores in Metro Manila, particularly the big ones, dutifully comply with the discount requirement, those in the provinces, more often than not, deliberately or otherwise, fail to provide for full discount;

WHEREAS, these drug stores, mostly small to medium-sized, do not have the means to "order big quantities to avail themselves of volume discounts from suppliers," and as a consequence, are unable to give discount to senior citizens because the acquisition costs of medicines become understandably too high, so that offering the same would seriously damage business profitability;

WHEREAS, even drug stores chains now feel the adverse effects of the law so that they themselves foresee their failure to provide for the same discount soon if only to avoid possible business loss in the process;

WHEREAS, it should be stressed that while appropriate amendments of the law may be in order, as proposed and lobbied for by drug store owners, the same still is not advisable since senior citizens, who should enjoy ample protection from the State, are the ones who stand to suffer;

WHEREAS, there may be a need to seriously look into the pricing of medicines by manufacturers and suppliers, and see how they are determined, the bases of which, and whether or not there could still be possibility of regulating said prices, specially considering that in other countries like Thailand and India, prices of medicines are so affordable to the buying public;

WHEREAS, there is a need to also consider other factors, which may explain this predicament so that appropriate remedies can be provided for, thereby restoring this privilege, which senior citizens should rightfully enjoy and avail of;

WHEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, by the Senate to direct the Senate Committee on Health and Demography to investigate, in aid of legislation, the allegation that senior citizens fail to avail of twenty percent (20%) discount on medicines, contrary to what RA 9253 provides.

Adopted.

  
LUISA "LOI" P. EJERCITO ESTRADA  
Senator