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SENATE  
P. S. R. No. 1502

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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 REPORT THAT THE INCIDENCE OF HAND, FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE  
AMONG CHILDREN IS STEEPLY RISING

1 WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 15 provides: "The State shall protect and  
2 promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them";

3 WHEREAS, the *Inquirer.net* on 28 July 2015 reported that the Department of Health  
4 (DOH) has recorded a steep rise in the incidence of hand, foot and mouth disease (HFMD)  
5 among children nationwide, with more than 600 cases reported in the last seven months;

6 WHEREAS, the DOH reportedly said 612 suspected HFMD cases were recorded from  
7 January 1 to July 4 this year, 175.7 percent higher than the 222 cases reported in the same period  
8 last year;

9 WHEREAS, Cagayan Valley is said to have registered the biggest number of cases,  
10 comprising 23.7 percent of the total, followed by Calabarzon, 20.1 percent; Northern Mindanao,  
11 15.5 percent; Metro Manila, 9.6 percent, and Mimaropa, 5.4 percent;

12 WHEREAS, DOH data showed that HFMD mainly affects children with 60 percent of  
13 the cases involving males and more than half of the cases hitting the 1- to 4-year-old age group;

14 WHEREAS, HFMD has been found to commonly be spread through direct contact with  
15 secretions, such as saliva, from infected people;

16 WHEREAS, symptoms allegedly include fever that may last 24 to 48 hours, painful  
17 mouth sores and rashes and blisters on the hands, feet and buttocks;

18 WHEREAS, the DOH claimed that there is still no treatment for HFMD and medications  
19 given were usually for the relief of symptoms, such as fever and sore throat;

20 WHEREAS, the DOH reportedly advised the public to strictly observe good hygiene,  
21 such as frequent hand washing, to lessen the risk of catching the disease;

1           WHEREAS, Congress, in consultation with the DOH, must identify policy support  
2 needed to address the spike in HFMD cases in the country;

3           WHEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE to direct  
4 the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the need to address  
5 the steep rise in the incidence of hand, foot and mouth disease among children.

Adopted,

  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO  
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