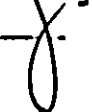


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SENATE  
P. S. R. No. 1648

RECEIVED BY: 

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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**RESOLUTION  
EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE  
THAT THE REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH LAW,  
UPHELD BY THE SUPREME COURT AS CONSTITUTIONAL,  
MUST BE IMPLEMENTED FULLY TO EFFECTIVELY ADDRESS  
CHRONIC MATERNAL MORTALITY IN THE PHILIPPINES**

1 WHEREAS, the Constitution provides, in Article 2, Sections 12 and 15:

2 Section 12. The State recognizes the sanctity of family life and shall  
3 protect and strengthen the family as a basic autonomous social institution. It shall  
4 equally protect the life of the mother and the life of the unborn from conception.  
5 The natural and primary right and duty of parents in the rearing of the youth for  
6 civic efficiency and the development of moral character shall receive the support  
7 of the Government.

8 Section 15. The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the  
9 people and instill health consciousness among them.

10 WHEREAS, the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* on 28 October reported that the Philippines is  
11 unlikely to reach its target of reducing maternal mortality to less than three deaths a day by the  
12 end of 2015, in line with the international community's Millennium Development Goals (MDG);

13 WHEREAS, the news quoted a report published by the Zuellig Family Foundation (ZFF)  
14 that the MDG target on maternal mortality for the Philippines is 52 women per 100,000 live  
15 births by the end of the year;

16 WHEREAS, National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) statistics showed  
17 that the number of women who died due to complications of pregnancy actually increased to 221  
18 women out of 100,000 live births in 2011, from 162 women out of 100,000 live births in 2006;

19 WHEREAS, after extensive debates over many years, Congress finally enacted R.A. No.  
20 10354, also known as the "Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health (RH) Act of 2012";

21 WHEREAS, in 2014, as expected, the RH law was immediately questioned in the  
22 Supreme Court, but the highest court of the land settled the wrangling over the controversy, by  
23 declaring that the RH law is constitutional, in the landmark case of *Imbong v. Ochoa*;

1           WHEREAS, in *Imbong*, the Supreme Court ruled that the government should certify, and  
2 give away only contraceptives that are not abortive, thereby, enabling the Department of Health  
3 and the Food and Drug Administration to subject contraceptives to re-testing;

4           WHEREAS, a pending petition, *Alliance for the Family Foundation Philippines, Inc. v.*  
5 *Garin*, also obtained a temporary restraining order preventing the two government agencies from  
6 acting on pending applications for reproductive products and supplies;

7           WHEREAS, the petition, which is based on the *Imbong* ruling that RH supplies should  
8 not be abortive, opens the tired old issue of when does abortion occur and when does life begin;

9           WHEREAS, when the Supreme Court ruled that the RH law is constitutional, this ruling  
10 obviates any further debate that has already been threshed out in the legislature;

11           WHEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE to  
12 express the sense of the Senate that the Reproductive Health Law, upheld by the Supreme Court  
13 as constitutional, must be implemented fully to address the pervading problem of maternal  
14 mortality, among others;

15           RESOLVED FURTHER, that the Supreme Court be furnished a copy of this resolution.

Adopted,

  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO  
7P