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Senate  
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SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 1664

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Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

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**RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND DEMOGRAPHY AND OTHER APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE PREVALENCE OF HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS (HIV) IN THE COUNTRY AND THE STATUS OF THE PHILIPPINES IN MEETING THE OBJECTIVES OF THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS THAT AIM TO COMBAT HIV/AIDS**

**WHEREAS**, Section 15 of Article II of the Constitution states that "The State shall protect the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them";

**WHEREAS**, 6<sup>th</sup> among the 8 Millennium Development Goals is to combat HIV/AIDS, and other diseases by achieving universal access to treatment for HIV/AIDS for all those who need it by 2010, and by halting and reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS by 2015;

**WHEREAS**, amidst the global downtrend of HIV/AIDS epidemic by about 40% between 2000 and 2013, regional trends showed that there is a sluggish decline in the number of new infections in Southeast Asia with the Philippines having the fastest growing HIV epidemic in the world with 17 new cases recorded daily in the year 2014 to 22 in 2015, according to a report by the World Health Organization (WHO);

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Health reported in July 2015 that about 22 Filipinos get infected with HIV every day, while the United Nations & AIDS (or UNAIDS) said that the Philippines has reported over 20,000 new cases of infection, which is more than the total number of HIV cases reported in the country from 1984 to the early 2000s;

**WHEREAS**, although the Philippines remains a low incidence country with HIV prevalence affecting 0.1% of the general population, there is a reported concentrated epidemic of HIV infection among certain groups, like gay men and men who have sex with men, freelance sex workers, and in certain areas of Cebu, among people who inject drugs, that needs close monitoring and urgent intervention;

**WHEREAS**, with only a few months to the deadline for the Millennium Development Goals, much remains to be done to achieve the goal on combating HIV / AIDS and other diseases;

**WHEREAS**, there is a need to look into the government's efforts to curb the prevalence of HIV /AIDS for us to be able to implement policies to ramp up the country's response to the escalating HIV epidemic in terms of funding and raising awareness;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, *as it is hereby resolved*, that the Senate of the Philippines directs the Senate Committee on Health and Demography and other appropriate Senate committees to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the prevalence of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) in the country and the status of the Philippines in meeting the objectives of the Millennium Development Goals that aim to combat HIV/AIDS.

*Adopted,*

  
MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID