

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



'16 JUL 25 P2:32

SENATE
P.S.R. No. 19

RECORDED

BY: 

Introduced by: Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" A. Aquino IV

**RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT
AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON EFFECTIVE DRUG PREVENTION AND
INTERVENTION FOR THE YOUTH**

WHEREAS, the 1987 Constitution provides that the maintenance of peace and order, the protection of life, liberty, and property, and promotion of general welfare are essential for the enjoyment by all the people of the blessings of democracy;

WHEREAS, Article 2, Section 15 of the 1987 Constitution states that the State shall protect and promote the right to health of people and instill health consciousness among them. Further, that the State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being;

WHEREAS, the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002 (RA No. 9165), states that it is the policy of the State to safeguard the integrity of its territory and the well-being of its citizenry particularly the youth, from the harmful effects of dangerous drugs on their physical and mental well-being, and to defend the same against acts or omissions detrimental to their development and preservation;

WHEREAS, RA No. 9165 provides that the government shall pursue an intensive and unrelenting campaign against the trafficking and use of dangerous drugs and other similar substances through an integrated planning, implementation and enforcement of anti-drug abuse policies, programs, and projects, with the assistance of the Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB), the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), the National Youth Commission (NYC), and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD);

WHEREAS, according to the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), more than 8,625 barangays, more than a fifth of barangays nationwide, have drug related cases;

WHEREAS, according to a news report, the Mandaluyong Local Government Unit in 2015, conducted raids in two open parties reportedly offering sex, drugs, and alcohol,

resulting to the arrest of 146 persons, of which 80 were minors, 52 of them were between 11 to 15 years of age¹;

WHEREAS, a radio broadcaster and television host, warning both students and parents, revealed the prevalence of the peddling of controlled and prohibited substances by students in cafes in the vicinity of a university in Metro Manila²;

WHEREAS, party drugs have been reported to be making rounds in the bars, nightclubs, concerts and music festivals attended by the youth, and in a recent event reported in various local news outlets, have caused the death of five people due to high blood pressure, kidney failure and dehydration which are indicators of drug overdose³;

WHEREAS, a study conducted in the Philippines comparing street children with their non-street children counterparts reveal that the street children were nearly three times more likely to use illegal drugs, and almost nine times more likely to use inhalants⁴;

WHEREAS, statistics released by the Dangerous Drugs Board for 2014, revealed that 8% of total reported cases from residential and out-patient facilities were out-of-school youth, and 4% were students, and the youngest reported case involved a 9 year-old patient⁵;

WHEREAS, the DILG issued Memorandum Circular No. 2006-150 establishing the Special Drug Education Centers (SDEC) for out-of-school youth (OSY) and school children;

WHEREAS, the DSWD implemented in two pilot sites, Region 6 and 11, its Family Drug Abuse Prevention Program (FDAPP), a community-based program that educates and prepares families and the communities on the adverse effects of drug abuse;

WHEREAS, in 2015, the national government through the Dangerous Drugs Board provided 48.6 million worth of financial assistance for the construction of government drug rehabilitation centers nationwide, 24.3 million for assistance to patients in treatment and rehabilitations centers, and 4 million for preventive education programs and other duties and functions of the Board for the implementation of Republic Act No. 9165⁶;

¹ Alquitran, N. (2015, March 2). 80 minors, 66 adults nabbed in 'open parties' | Metro | Philippine Star. Retrieved June 20, 2016, from <http://beta.philstar.com/metro/2015/03/02/1429031/80-minors-66-adults-nabbed-open-parties>

² Tulfo, R. (Ed.). (2015, February 17). Drugs prevalent at College of St. Benilde. Retrieved June 20, 2016, from <http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/673368/drugs-prevalent-at-college-of-st-benilde>

³ The Closeup 'Forever Summer' concert tragedy: What we know so far. (2016, June 2). Retrieved June 20, 2016, from <http://cnnphilippines.com/news/2016/05/23/close-up-forever-summer-concert-pasay-timeline.html>

⁴ Njord, L., Merrill, R., Njord, R., Lindsay, R., & Pachano, J. (2010, April 22). Drug use among street children and non--street children in the Philippines. [Abstract]. *Asia Pacific Journal of Public Health*, 2(203), 11th ser. doi:10.1177/1010539510361515.

⁵ <http://www.ddb.gov.ph/research-statistics/statistics/45-research-and-statistics/246-2014-statistics>

⁶ http://www.ddb.gov.ph/images/Transparency_Seal/Special_Fund_151_Allocation_2015.pdf

WHEREAS, studies have shown that the global war on drugs pursued by some countries, characterized by a mainly punitive approach towards those who supply and use drugs, has not only failed to end drug use among their young populations, but has also brought more harm to the youth by raising the health risks of drug use, restricting young people's access to effective services, reducing access to essential medicines, undermining children's human rights, destroying families, fueling crime and violence, and creating new dangers.⁷ Given the global evidence, there is a need for our government to review its emerging drug policy particularly in relation to the national goal of protecting the Filipino youth;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate of the Philippines to direct appropriate Senate Committees to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislations, on effective drug prevention and intervention for the youth.

Adopted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Bam Aquino". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a prominent vertical line at the end.

⁷ <http://www.countthecosts.org/sites/default/files/Children-and-young-people.pdf>