



SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC  
OF THE PHILIPPINES  
*Second Regular Session*

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SENATE  
P.S. Res. No 643

RECEIVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

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Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

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**RESOLUTION**  
**DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE COUNTRY'S IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM VIS-À-VIS THE REPORTED MEASLES OUTBREAK IN DAVAO CITY AND ZAMBOANGA CITY**

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

**WHEREAS**, it is the duty of the State to pursue preventive and proactive measures to effectively address the outbreaks of infectious diseases;

**WHEREAS**, measles is a highly contagious respiratory disease which easily spreads from person-to-person by sneezing, coughing, and close personal contact;<sup>1</sup>

**WHEREAS**, Davao City and Zamboanga City declared measles outbreak following the increased number of people infected by the viral infection;

**WHEREAS**, according to reports, four (4) children died and 222 people suffer from measles symptom in Davao City;<sup>2</sup> and 101 suspected measles cases, representing a 1,343 percent increase, from last year was reported in Zamboanga City;<sup>3</sup>

**WHEREAS**, many of the children afflicted with the contagious disease were reportedly not immunized;

**WHEREAS**, it was reported that the issues hounding the Dengvaxia vaccine was among the main reasons behind the refusal of some parents in those areas to avail of free vaccination for measles for their children;<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Department of Health. (2012). Philippine Health Advisories. Retrieved from <http://www.doh.gov.ph/sites/default/files/publications/PhilippineHealthAdvisories2012.compressed.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Rappler. (22 Jan 2018). Measles outbreak declared in Davao City. Retrieved from <https://www.rappler.com/nation/194278-measles-outbreak-declared-in-davao-city>

<sup>3</sup> SunStar Zamboanga. (12 Feb 2018). Measles outbreak declared in Zamboanga City. Retrieved from <http://www.sunstar.com.ph/zamboanga/local-news/2018/02/12/measles-outbreak-declared-zamboanga-city-588565>

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Health (DOH) has already expressed alarm as more parents refuse to subject their children not only to measles vaccination but also to other vaccines for diseases such as polio, diphtheria, and tetanus;<sup>5</sup>

**WHEREAS**, it is necessary to allay fears and bring back the trust in the life saving vaccination and health programs of the government;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate of the Philippines, to direct the appropriate Senate committees to conduct an inquiry, on the country's immunization program vis-à-vis the reported measles outbreak in Davao City and Zamboanga City.

*Adopted,*

  
GRACE POE

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<sup>4</sup> SunStar Davao. (23 Jan 2018). Parents refuse free measles vaccination for their kids. Retrieved from <http://www.sunstar.com.ph/davao/local-news/2018/01/23/parents-refuse-free-measles-vaccination-their-kids-585322>

<sup>5</sup> Rappler. (02 Feb 2018). Kids vaccination rate down to 60% after Dengvaxia scare. Retrieved from <https://www.rappler.com/nation/195101-kids-vaccination-rate-down-dengvaxia-scare-doh>