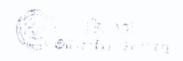
SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Third Regular Session

**SENATE** P.S. Res. No. 980



Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

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## RESOLUTION

URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE PERSISTENCE OF BULLYING INCIDENTS OR CASES IN PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS, WITH THE END GOAL OF INTRODUCING NECESSARY AMENDMENTS TO RA 10627, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "ANTI-BULLYING ACT OF 2013", TO STRENGTHEN SAID LAW

**WHEREAS**, Section 11, Article 2 of the Constitution states that "the State values the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human rights";

**WHEREAS**, Section 13, Article 2 of the Constitution declares 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**, bullying breeds hatred and violence on the part of the perpetrator and it mentally, emotionally and psychologically scars the victim, thereby negatively affecting his or her education and even his or her life outside school;

**WHEREAS**, Republic Act (RA) No. 10627, or the "Anti-Bullying Act of 2013", was approved on 12 September 2013;

**WHEREAS**, RA 10627 was enacted to address various forms of bullying in educational institutions, particularly in primary and secondary education;

**WHEREAS**, though there are numerous forms of bullying, there are five (5) "basic forms of bullying", namely: physical, verbal, relational aggression, cyberbullying and sexual bullying;

**WHEREAS**, in 2014, ironically, cases of bullying in elementary and high schools reportedly rose by 21%, or a total of 6,363 cases, compared to 2013's 5,236 cases of bullying, according to a consolidated report of the Department of Education (DepEd);

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WHEREAS, despite the passage of RA 10627, cases of bullying had apparently increased:

WHEREAS, just recently, a video of a high school student bullying a fellow student went viral in social media, which angered Filipinos from different sectors and age groups;

WHEREAS, one of the most frequently-mentioned criticism against RA 10627 is the relative autonomy and "leeway" accorded to educational institutions in "internally" resolving cases and/or complaints of bullying;

WHEREAS, it is high time to re-visit RA 10627 and to hear the stakeholders involved as well as the experts on the matter in order to strengthen said law by possibly including a meaningful "check" on the apparent autonomy and discretion of educational institutions; a provision to ensure the impartiality and efficiency of the body or committee to investigate and decide on a bullying case; and the mandatory leave of absence of the alleged bully, among others;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate of the Philippines, to urge the Senate Committee on Education, Arts and Culture to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the persistence of bullying incidents or cases in primary and secondary schools, with the end goal of introducing necessary amendments to RA 10627, otherwise known as the "Anti-Bullying Act of 2013", to strengthen said law;

Adopted.

GRACE POE