

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
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SENATE

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P.S. RES NO. 107

Introduced by SENATOR COMPAÑERA PIA S. CAYETANO

**A RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND DEMOGRAPHY TO
INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE INCREASING NUMBER OF
HEALTH PROFESSIONALS LEAVING THE COUNTRY**

Whereas, Section 15, Article II of the 1987 Philippine Constitution directs the State to protect and promote the right to health of all people;

Whereas, Section 11, Article XIII further mandates that the State "shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost...;"

Whereas, the Philippines is presently experiencing the exodus of medical practitioners such as doctors and nurses;

Whereas, data shows that for the past six (6) years, around 4,000 doctors have left the Philippines to look for greener pastures overseas, while another 4,000 doctors are currently enrolled in nursing courses with the end view of leaving the Philippines for better opportunities abroad;

Whereas, news articles report that by year 2010, the critical shortfall of doctors could reach more than 18,000;

Whereas, it is further shown that from 1995 to 2003, an alarming 68,618 new-hire nurses have left the Philippines to accept offers of better paying jobs abroad;

Whereas, in view of the diminishing supply of doctors, nurses and other health human resources, there is an increased reliance on other local social workers, such as barangay health workers and nutrition scholars;

Whereas, there is an urgent need to address this problem to avert a looming crisis in the health sector;

Whereas, there is likewise a need to examine the programs and existing structure of the Department of Health to determine whether its programs and structure have evolved to address the rising dependence on workers who are not professionals in their field but are nonetheless skilled or semi-skilled and may be trained to deal with certain health problems;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED,
that the Senate of the Philippines direct the Committee on Health and
Demography to look into, in aid of legislation, the pressing problem of migration
of our health professionals and the increased reliance on local social workers.

Adopted,

Pia S. Cayetano
COMPAÑERA PIA S. CAYETANO
Senator