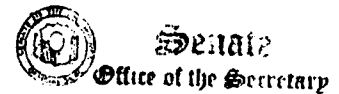


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )



20 APR 27 11:28

SENATE  
P.S. RES. No. 374

RECEIVED BY

*[Handwritten signature]*

Introduced by SENATOR SONNY ANGARA

**EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE TO DISCOURAGE HANDSHAKING AS IT POSES DANGER IN HEALTH AND CAN ESCALATE THE SPREAD OF VIRUS AND GERMS**

1 WHEREAS, the handshake is known as a social custom all over the globe  
2 when recognizing a person one may encounter, as a sign of respect and courtesy, or  
3 even as an everyday greeting. It is considered part of proper etiquette and universal  
4 decorum as it conveys trust and confidence. While the actual gesture may vary  
5 between cultures, the touching of hands remains a general element;

6 WHEREAS, despite the associated social graces, the handshake poses  
7 significant health risks, and has been identified as a means for passing ailments and  
8 respiratory viruses (COVID-19) as stated by the World Health Organization. A study  
9 conducted by the American Journal of Infection Control revealed that handshakes  
10 transfer most of E. coli bacteria as compared with fist bumps and high fives;

11 WHEREAS, on 31 December 2019, a novel coronavirus was identified in  
12 Wuhan, Chin, which quickly spread throughout the globe. As a result, a pandemic  
13 was declared in a matter of months, infecting millions and killing thousands all over  
14 the world;

15 WHEREAS, said Corona Virus, which is the cause of the COVID-19 disease,  
16 can be easily transmitted from one person to another when virus-infected droplets  
17 are released to the air or onto surfaces through sneezes or coughs. These droplets  
18 may reach the nose, mouth, or eyes of a person as he or she touches contaminated  
19 objects and surfaces, or comes into sustained close contact with somebody who has  
20 been infected. They may also be spread as a carrier exchanges a handshake with  
21 others;

1           WHEREAS, citizens are urged not to use the handshake as a form of greeting  
2 to protect oneself and also other people. Even during the flu season every cold  
3 months of the year, it is recommended to skip handshakes to prevent infecting  
4 others;

5           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE, as it is  
6 hereby resolved, to express the sense of the Congress to discourage handshaking  
7 and promote hand hygiene to minimize the spread of infectious diseases, bacteria  
8 and viruses.

*Adopted,*



**SONNY ANGARA**  
70