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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
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SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 470

INTRODUCED BY: SENATOR EMMANUEL D. PACQUIAO

**RESOLUTION TO ENCOURAGE AND FURTHER DEVELOP THE USE OF
FILIPINO SIGN LANGUAGE IN SUPPORT OF MITIGATION MEASURES
AGAINST THE SPREAD OF CONTAGIOUS DISEASES**

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 15 of the 1987 Constitution directs the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.

WHEREAS, Article XIII, Section 11 of the Constitution moreover mandates the State to adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development.

WHEREAS, the continuing serious effects in the Philippines of the worldwide pandemic caused by the 2019 Novel Coronavirus that is known for short as "Covid-19" confirms that contagious illnesses can spread in a rapid pace and elucidates how the disease-causing microbes are commonly transferred.

WHEREAS, The World Health Organization (WHO), the health departments of the world's states, and epidemic and new disease research institutions here and abroad, including our own Department of Health and Research Institute for Tropical Medicine, as well as Philippine academic institutions, are presently rushing significant studies of the disease.

WHEREAS, These centers of health concerns commonly recognize that the virus causing the Covid-19 disease spreads through body fluids discharged by an infected person

that subsequently get into the body system of a new host person, and the general public has now been made to understand and it is increasingly being accepted that the common vehicles of transfer of the disease are almost invisible droplets of saliva or mucus that are discharged when a virus-carrying person coughs, sneezes, or simply talks verbally.

WHEREAS, scientists are now increasingly reporting that through the said simple verbal conversations and discharges, the virus lingers in the air or is carried possibly even by aerosols for some time and for distances of up to six feet and sometimes more, or it settles and is maintained for even longer times on various surfaces.

WHEREAS, the danger of such a contagious disease is worsened when, like the Covid-19, it can possibly be transferred by a carrier that is asymptomatic, or one who does not show the symptoms of the disease, and said unknowing carrier spreads the disease by simple conversation or regular interaction with other people in the community.

WHEREAS, the whole world is now witness to the gravity of the adverse effects of an epidemic, or even worse, a pandemic such as the Covid-19 pandemic – health and allied health institutions and their workers are swamped to capacity and overworked with sick persons to treat; deaths are reported daily in substantial and shocking numbers; communities and families are quarantined, sometimes with necessary force, within the boundaries of localities and families within their abodes; businesses can be closed and may only be gradually reopened and expectedly with great losses; and the economies of nations are seriously endangered – and these scenarios are accepted to continue until scientists find a cure or vaccine to control the disease and until governments find recovery solutions to the detrimental effects.

WHEREAS, it is now accepted that the Covid-19 disease will have to be managed in communities for some time until it comes under control and in order that a deadly resurgence of the disease will be obviated. The entire world also now gets a new lesson that future microbes can cause similar contagions.

WHEREAS, there is therefore an urgent need to institute measures that will allow and support the safe interaction of people and the conduct of business establishments and their transactions, focused on complementing and enhancing other mitigation measures

against the spread of Covid-19 and other viruses and microbes that may cause future contagious diseases.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), in consultation with non-government organizations presently teaching the recognized Filipino Sign Language that is already being used by tens of thousands of verbally challenged individuals in the country and that follows the local conversational word order, shall immediately develop and offer skills development modules for the use of Filipino Sign Language by individuals in the country that are appropriate for different purposes, such as, for daily conversation, for ordinary commercial transactions, for more complicated business and technical activities, and for trainors thereof.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, That the TESDA, in coordination with the various local government units, shall promote the TESDA sign language modules among the residents of the localities in order to enhance wider use of the sign language and increase the numbers of trainors thereof.

IT IS FINALLY RESOLVED, That in order to enhance further interest in the TESDA sign language modules, the TESDA, in coordination with the Department of Information and Communications Technology, shall develop online material to introduce and promote the said TESDA Filipino Sign Language modules that are being offered by the TESDA.



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