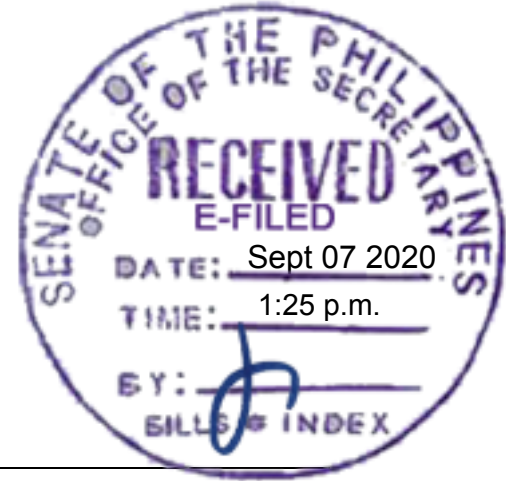


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



SENATE
P. S. Res No. 514

Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEES TO INQUIRE INTO AND REVIEW, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE TEMPORARY BAN ON OVERSEAS DEPLOYMENT OF HEALTH WORKERS

1 WHEREAS, Section 18, Article II of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides
2 that the State affirms labor as a primary social economic force. It shall protect the
3 rights of workers and promote their welfare;

4 WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 12, Article XIII of the 1987 Philippine
5 Constitution, the State shall undertake appropriate health manpower development
6 responsive to the country's health needs and problems;

7 WHEREAS, a news article from CNN Philippines entitled "PH temporarily bans
8 deployment of health workers abroad amid COVID-19 outbreak", dated April 10, 2020,
9 reported that Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III, who is also the chairperson of the
10 Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA), signed an order on April 2,
11 2020, that temporarily restricts health workers from leaving to work abroad as the
12 country deals with the COVID-19 pandemic;

13 WHEREAS, according to POEA Governing Board Resolution No. 09, Series of
14 2020 issued on April 2, 2020, it is of paramount national interest to ensure that the
15 country shall continue to have, sustain the supply, and prepare sufficient health
16 personnel to meet any further contingencies, especially to replace, substitute or
17 reinforce existing workforce currently employed, deployed or utilized locally;

1 WHEREAS, the POEA has defined Mission Critical Skills (MCS) as those skills
2 that reflect the primary function of the organization without which mission critical work
3 cannot be completed and which skills are internally developed and require extensive
4 training, thus, not easily replaceable;

5 WHEREAS, the following occupations are included in the roster of existing MCS:

- 6 a. Medical Doctor/Physician
- 7 b. Nurse
- 8 c. Microbiologist
- 9 d. Molecular biologist
- 10 e. Medical technologist
- 11 f. Clinical analyst
- 12 g. Respiratory therapist
- 13 h. Pharmacist
- 14 i. Laboratory technician
- 15 j. X-ray / Radiologic technician
- 16 k. Nursing assistant / nursing aid
- 17 l. Operator of medical equipment
- 18 m. Supervisor of health services and personal care
- 19 n. Repairman of medical-hospital equipment;

20 WHEREAS, on August 17, 2020, the Interagency Task Force (IATF) on the
21 Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases issued Resolution No. 64, Series of 2020
22 which temporarily suspended the overseas deployment of medical and allied health
23 workers pursuant to POEA Governing Board Resolution No. 09, Series of 2020;

24 WHEREAS, pursuant to IATF Resolution No. 64, Series of 2020, the Department
25 of Health and all hospitals and healthcare facilities of local government units and
26 entities are enjoined to hire medical and allied health workers to supplement their
27 current workforce;

28 WHEREAS, a news article from Manila Bulletin entitled "DOLE recommends
29 lifting deployment ban for 600 nurses", published on August 25, 2020, reported that
30 the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) has requested the IATF to allow

1 some 600 nurses to leave the country amid the government's temporary deployment
2 ban on Filipino health care workers;

3 WHEREAS, according to POEA chief Bernard Olalia, the request was made
4 following the DOLE and POEA's consultation with the health care industry, when the
5 Philippine Nurses Association (PNA) appealed to allow 600 nurses whose departures
6 were affected by the travel ban;

7 WHEREAS, it is necessary to review the temporary ban on deployment of health
8 workers pursuant to IATF Resolution No. 64, Series of 2020 and POEA Governing
9 Board Resolution No. 09, Series of 2020 taking into consideration the PNA's appeal to
10 lift the ban and allow 600 nurses to work abroad;

11 BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, directing the proper Senate
12 Committees to inquire into and review, in aid of legislation, the temporary ban on
13 overseas deployment of health workers.

Adopted,



MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY