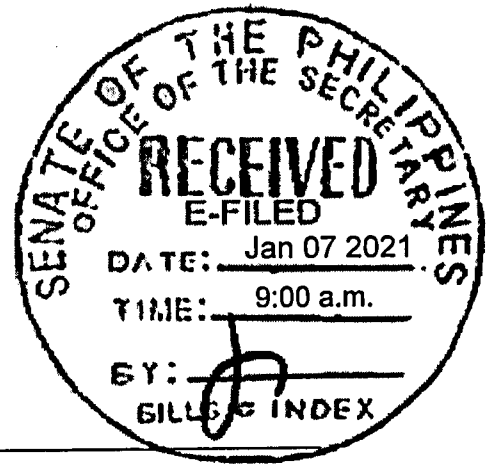


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
*Second Regular Session* )

SENATE  
P.S. Resolution No. 604



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Introduced by **SENATOR IMEE R. MARCOS**

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**RESOLUTION**  
**DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN**  
**INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE CONTINUING REPORTS OF**  
**CHILD ONLINE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION DESPITE NUMEROUS LAWS**  
**SAFEGUARDING AND AFFECTING RIGHTS OF CHILDREN**

**WHEREAS**, Article XV, Section 3, par. 2 of the 1987 Constitution provides that, *"the State shall defend the right of children to assistance, including proper care and nutrition, and special protection from all forms of neglect, abuse, cruelty, exploitation and other conditions prejudicial to their development"*. While, Article II, Sec. 13 of the Constitution also provides 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. It shall inculcate in the youth patriotism and nationalism, and encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs"*;

**WHEREAS**, to uphold the rights and protection granted by the Constitution, Congress has enacted the following laws: Republic Act No. 9775 or the *"Anti-Child Pornography Act of 2009"*, Republic Act No. 7610 or the *"Special Protection of Children Against Child Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act"*, Republic Act No. 9208 or the *"Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003,"* as amended by Republic Act No. 10364, and Republic Act No. 10175 or the *"Cybercrime Prevention Act of 2012"*;

**WHEREAS**, the United Nation Convention on the Rights of the Child, which the Philippines is a signatory, also mandates that *"States Parties undertake to protect the child from all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. For these purposes, States Parties shall in particular take all appropriate national, bilateral and multilateral measures to prevent: (a) The inducement or coercion of a child to engage in any unlawful sexual activity; (b) The exploitative use of children in prostitution or other unlawful sexual practices; (c) The exploitative use of children in pornographic performances and materials"*;

**WHEREAS**, on 04 January 2021, the Department of Justice (DOJ), through a Department Order, asked the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) to investigate and look into the alleged online sexual exploitation of children particularly the reported sale and offering for sale of sensual photographs, videos, or pornography of students online;

**WHEREAS**, news revealed that some students, in order to raise money, held online "*Christmas bundles*" of sensual photos and videos to buy gadgets and pay internet bills in support of the child's distance learning. According to the report, some students even sold their obscene photos for as low as P150 which can be paid through online platforms such as GCash or PayPal;

**WHEREAS**, the Philippine National Police (PNP) also ordered its Anti-Cybercrime Group (ACG) to monitor such activities in social media as PNP chief Debold Sinas called on parents and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) to intervene if the acts were done voluntarily;

**WHEREAS**, the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) revealed that suspicious transactions worth P113.1 million related to child pornography were reported in the first half of 2020 which was almost double the P65.8 million booked in 2019 despite the government stepping up its campaign against sexual abuse of children;

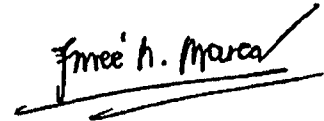
**WHEREAS**, in a public bulletin entitled "*Child pornography in the Philippines*," the AMLC showed the volume of suspicious transaction reports (STRs) reaching 27,217 from January to June 2020 or more than 2.5 times the 10,627 reported for the entire 2019. Also, such increased by 1,654 percent from 2018 to 2019 and 156 percent from 2019 to the first semester of 2020;

**WHEREAS**, of the total value from January 2019 to June 2020, the report showed that 68.4 percent pertain to international remittances from the US, Australia, Canada, Saudi Arabia, United Kingdom, Norway, United Arab Emirates, Korea and Singapore;

**WHEREAS**, various sectors have also expressed concerns that the practice makes students vulnerable to sexual exploitation and unlawful acts;

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED***, as it is hereby resolved, directing the appropriate Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the continuing reports of child online sexual exploitation despite numerous laws safeguarding and affecting rights of children.

*Adopted,*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Imee R. Marcos". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a solid horizontal line.

**IMEE R. MARCOS**