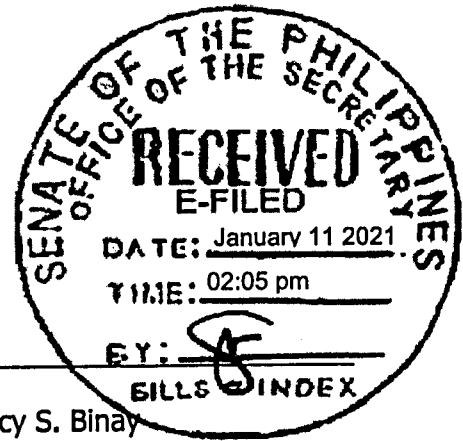


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Second Regular Session )

SENATE  
P. S. Res No. 607



Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

**RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED INCREASE IN SUSPICIOUS TRANSACTIONS LINKED TO CHILD PORNOGRAPHY IN THE COUNTRY**

1 WHEREAS, the State shall protect every child from all forms of exploitation and  
2 abuse such as online sexual exploitation of children (OSEC), better known as child  
3 pornography;

4  
5 WHEREAS, under Republic Act No. 9160, as amended, or the Anti-Money  
6 Laundering Act, unlawful activities include violations of Section 4 of Republic Act No.  
7 9775 or the Anti-Child Pornography Act of 2009, Section 9 of Republic Act No. 7610  
8 or the Special Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination  
9 Act and Section 4 of Republic Act No. 9995 or Anti-Photo and Video Voyeurism Act of  
10 2009, among others;

11  
12 WHEREAS, according to the Department of Justice Office of Cybercrime, the  
13 reports of online sexual exploitation of children had increased by 264 percent during  
14 the height of the COVID-19. The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children,  
15 a private and non-profit corporation in the United States whose mission is to reduce  
16 child exploitation and help find missing children, recorded a total of 279,166 cases  
17 from its Cyberline Trip Report hotline from March 01, 2020 to May 24, 2020 compared  
18 to 76,561 reports during the same period in 2019<sup>1</sup>;

19  
20 WHEREAS, as early as September 2020, there were news reports that  
21 authorities have detected an increase in financial transactions relating to child  
22 pornography brought about by the pandemic;

23  
24 WHEREAS, in a study titled "Online Sexual Exploitation of Children: A Crime  
25 with a Global Impact and an Evolving Transnational Threat," the Anti-Money  
26 Laundering Council (AMLC) reported that corollary to several news reports about the

<sup>1</sup> Benjamin Pulta, Online child exploitation reports in PH surge amid Covid-19: DOJ, Philippine News Agency (May 25, 2020), <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1103852>.

1 increasing number of OSEC cases in the Philippines brought about by the pandemic,  
2 a surge in the number of suspicious transaction reports (STRs) submissions is  
3 observed for the months of March and May 2020, with 5,512 and 5,634 STRs reported,  
4 respectively. This is compared with 110 and 597 STRs, during the same period in  
5 2019. Similarly, the noted surge in the number of STRs for January and February 2020  
6 can also be linked to the pandemic in conjunction with the efforts of the AMLC, other  
7 relevant agencies, and the private sector in spreading awareness on OSEC;

8  
9 WHEREAS, in a public bulletin titled "Child pornography in the Philippines: Post-  
10 2019 Study using STR Data (STR data from 2019 to the first semester of 2020),"  
11 according to the AMLC, there are 37,844 STRs reported from 01 January 2019 to 30  
12 June 2020, which is a significant increase from 2,611 STRs reported from 2015 to  
13 2018. STRs submitted in the first semester of 2020 have already exceeded STRs  
14 submitted in 2019. STR submissions have increased by 1,654% from 2018 to 2019  
15 and 156% from 2019 to the first semester of 2020. This is expected to increase further  
16 until the end of 2020;

17  
18 WHEREAS, according to the AMLC, majority of the funds linked to child  
19 pornography are still channeled through money service businesses. Covered persons  
20 became proactive in reporting STRs as a result of a heightened awareness of the  
21 nature and flow of funds in child pornography. This led to a significant increase in the  
22 number of child pornography-related STRs. There are a few instances when electronic  
23 money issuers and virtual currency exchanges were used to transfer funds, which may  
24 be an indicator of an emerging threat, relating to the use of e-money and virtual assets  
25 or digital currencies as payment for suspected child abuse content;

26  
27 WHEREAS, the AMLC also reported that an indicator of the possible existence  
28 of organized crime groups and syndicates is also observed due to the multiple links  
29 between the senders and beneficiaries. Statistics on STRs involving international  
30 remittances suggest that child pornography in the Philippines is predominantly cross-  
31 border in nature. The number of international remittances related to child pornography  
32 is higher than the number of domestic remittances. The United States of America  
33 (USA), Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Australia, Canada, and the United Kingdom are the  
34 consistent top 5 sender-countries, both in volume and in value of STRs, with the USA  
35 as the constant top-sending country. As to beneficiary-locations, Pampanga is the top  
36 recipient location for international remittances related to child pornography, as to both  
37 volume and value of STR data used in the post-study. On the other hand, Cebu is the  
38 top beneficiary location for domestic remittances associated with child pornography;

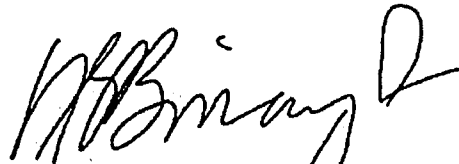
39  
40 WHEREAS, due to global travel restrictions brought about by the COVID-19  
41 pandemic, many sexual predators and offenders were pushed online that caused an  
42 increased demand for the commercialization of child pornography;

43  
44 WHEREAS, considering the current blended learning set up, where children  
45 attend online classes, there were reports that some students hold a sale of lewd photos  
46 and videos online to raise money allegedly for their internet bills and gadgets;

1           WHEREAS, in furtherance of our common goal to protect children from  
2 exploitations and to promote their total well-being, there is a need to inquire into the  
3 alarming reports on the increase in financial transactions linked to child pornography  
4 in the country;

5  
6           BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, by the Senate to direct the  
7 appropriate Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the  
8 reported increase in suspicious transactions linked to child pornography in the country.

Adopted,



**MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY**