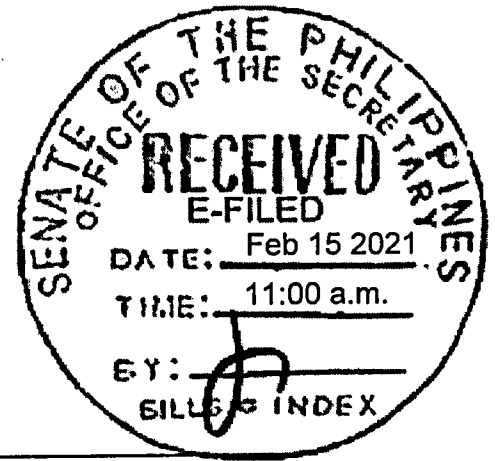


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

SENATE
P. S. Res No. 650



Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN
INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALARMING GROWTH OF
ADOLESCENT PREGNANCIES IN THE COUNTRY

1 WHEREAS, the Civil Registry Statistics of the Philippine Statistics Authority
2 (PSA) has revealed two registered live births from girls as young as 10 years old from
3 the National Capital Region (NCR) and Region 4-A (Calabarzon), both of which have a
4 relatively high population¹;

5
6 WHEREAS, according to the Commission on Population and Development
7 (POPCOM) NCR Director, Lydio Espanol Jr., pregnancies involving minors were
8 worrying, because cases posed "extra health risks" for the mother and the infant,
9 "including pre-term delivery and severe neonatal conditions."²;

10
11 WHEREAS, the POPCOM is the over-all coordinating, monitoring and policy
12 making body of the government's population program. It is the lead agency promoting
13 population activities;

14
15 WHEREAS, according to data provided by the PSA, and as reported by the
16 POPCOM, the number of Filipino minors (aged 14 years and below) who gave birth in
17 2019 rose to 7% or 62,510 compared to 62,341 in 2018³;

18
19 WHEREAS, 2,411 girls aged 10 to 14 gave birth in 2019, revealing an average
20 of seven births every day with Calabarzon, NCR, and Central Luzon registering the
21 highest incidence. Other regions like Northern Mindanao, Davao and Central Visayas
22 also logged a record high⁴;

¹ Philippine News Agency Website, Youngest case of early pregnancy registered in NCR, <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1130196>.

² ABS-CBN News Website, 10-year-old mothers recorded in Luzon, as gov't sounds alarm on girl pregnancies, <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/02/09/21/10-year-old-mothers-recorded-in-luzon-as-govt-sounds-alarm-on-girl-pregnancies>.

³ Manila Bulletin News Website, Alarming growth of adolescent pregnancies needs to be addressed, <https://mb.com.ph/2021/02/08/alarming-growth-of-adolescent-pregnancies-needs-to-be-addressed/>.

⁴ Ibid.

1 WHEREAS, the problem of teenage pregnancy still remains as a national
2 emergency as this is the 9th year since 2011 that the rate has increased, noting that
3 one out of every 10 pregnancies in the Philippines has been among teenagers⁵;

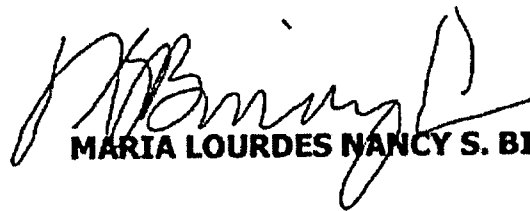
4
5 WHEREAS, according to the United Nations Population Fund, when a girl
6 becomes pregnant, her life can change radically. Her education may end and her job
7 prospects diminish. She becomes more vulnerable to poverty and exclusion, and her
8 health often suffers. Complications from pregnancy and childbirth are the leading
9 cause of death among adolescent girls⁶;

10
11 WHEREAS, tens of thousands of adolescents die annually of causes related to
12 pregnancy and childbirth. In fact, these are the leading cause of death among
13 adolescent girls, aged 15-19, globally⁷;

14
15 WHEREAS, based on the foregoing, it is imperative to conduct a complete
16 assessment and review of all government policies and programs regarding the
17 prevention of adolescent pregnancy in country;

18
19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, AS IT IS HEREBY
20 RESOLVED, to direct the appropriate Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid
21 of legislation, on the alarming growth of adolescent pregnancies in the country.

Adopted,


MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ United Nations Population Fund Website, Adolescent pregnancy, <https://www.unfpa.org/adolescent-pregnancy>.

⁷ Ibid.