NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

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SENATE P.S. RES. NO. 226



Introduced by SENATOR SONNY ANGARA

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE REPORTED DECLINE IN THE PHYSICAL AND MENTAL WELL-BEING OF OUR YOUTH WITH THE END IN VIEW OF CRAFTING A WHOLE-OF-GOVERNMENT STRATEGY TO ADDRESS THESE ISSUES AND PROMOTE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

WHEREAS, a recent World Health Organization (WHO)-funded study¹ found that the majority of adolescents do not meet current physical activity recommendations of a minimum of 60 minutes or more of daily physical activity of moderate-to-vigorous intensity;

WHEREAS, the said study highlighted that in 2016 more than four out of five or 81% of 11 to 17-year-olds had insufficient physical activity, with girls being less active than the boys and that the Philippines was the country with the highest prevalence of insufficient activity among boys (at 92.8%) and Filipino girls ranked second at $94.1\%^2$;

WHEREAS, mobile phone usage, scarcity of public spaces, not enough sidewalks where teens can walk or bike and, safety and security are among the reasons for the high physical inactivity rate of teenagers;

WHEREAS, the study recommended for governments to improve the education sector to integrate physical activity, and the transport sector and urban planning to create spaces safe for physical activity;

WHEREAS, the Philippine Youth Development Plan 2017-2022 has recognized living a sedentary lifestyle as among the health-related problems faced by the Filipino youth and identified as its output the creation of programs and projects promoting an active lifestyle and positive nutrition practices among the youth;

¹ Guthold, R., Stevens, G., Riley, L, and Bull, F. (2019). Global trends in insufficient physical activity among adolescents: a pooled analysis of 298 population-based surveys with 1-6 million participants accessed from: https://www.thelancet.com/article/S2352-4642(19)30323-2/fulltext on 06 September 2022.

https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1193821/who-ph-youths-2nd-most-inactive-next-to-s-koreans

WHEREAS, aside from the insufficient physical activity of our young people, a nine-year study conducted by Dream Project PH showed that 8 out of 10 Filipino teenagers do not have a dream or ambition³;

WHEREAS, the Dream Project PH study, identified the following as reasons which hinder dreaming among our young population: (a) lack of conversation to nurture a child's dream or purpose; (b) lack of role models; (c) limited perspectives in terms of challenging and encouraging them to make positive changes in the community; (d) limited opportunities despite educational attainment; and, (e) limited resources which sometimes force young persons to choose between the survival of the family or pursuing their dreams;

WHEREAS, according to the results of the 2018 Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), only 31% of fifteen-year-old respondents from the Philippines disagreed with the statement "Your intelligence is something about you that you can't change very much." Such proportion falls way below the OECD average of 63% and is the 5th lowest among the 79 countries and economies that participated in the assessment. These findings suggest that Filipino students lack a "growth mindset" which is rooted in the belief that a person's most basic abilities can be developed through dedication and hard work;

WHEREAS, the PISA 2018 results also showed that a majority of fifteen-year-old students in the Philippines expressed fear of failure, with up to 72% agreeing or strongly agreeing that when they fail, they worry about what others think of them. Such percentage is significantly higher than the 56% average measured across OECD members;

WHEREAS, among the rights of children under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child is to have a "standard of living that is good enough to meet their physical and social needs and support their development" and that the "government must help families who cannot afford to provide this";

WHEREAS, given the circumstances of our youth it is now up to the government, as protector of the rights of its people, to act and adopt or implement policies across its various agencies and instrumentalities that will address this crisis faced by our young population;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Senate of the Philippines to direct the Senate Committee on Youth to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation on the reported decline in the physical and mental well-being of our youth, review existing policies, and, fill-up gaps through the adoption of a whole-of-government strategy to uplift and promote the quality of life of our young people.

Adopted,

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SONNY ANGARA

³ https://www.onenews.ph/articles/8-out-of-10-filipinos-do-not-have-a-dream