

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

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SENATE
P S.R. No. **314**

RECEIVED BY: _____

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND DEMOGRAPHY AND
THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH, WOMEN AND FAMILY RELATIONS
TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION
ON THE ALLEGED ABUSE AND MALTREATMENT OF PREGNANT WOMEN
BY GOVERNMENT HEALTH WORKERS AT THE DR. JOSE FABELLA
MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article II, section 11 provides that: "The State values the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human rights";

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article II, section 12, further provides that. "The State recognizes the sanctity of family life and shall protect and strengthen the family as a basic autonomous social institution. It shall equally protect the life of the mother and the life of the unborn from conception. The natural and primary right and duty of parents in the rearing of the youth for civic efficiency and the development of moral character shall receive the support of the Government";

WHEREAS, the Dr. Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital is a National Health Facility that has gained international recognition for maternal and child health services and family planning;

WHEREAS, the hospital reportedly handles as much as 80 obstetric cases daily, around 6 to 15 of which are birth cases;

WHEREAS, two articles in the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* dated 30 May 2005 and 31 May 2005 reported cases of abuse and maltreatment of pregnant women by health workers in the said hospital;

WHEREAS, some of the reported cases of maltreatment are:

- a. Doctors and nurses purportedly subjected "perennially pregnant women" to verbal abuse, even while they are in labor, for failing to practice birth control;
- b. A doctor allegedly performed a total abdominal hysterectomy, which involves removal of the uterus, on a patient without her consent after she delivered her sixth baby;
- c. A doctor reportedly refused anesthesia to a pregnant patient during episiotomy, which necessitates cutting the vaginal opening of a woman in labor, for ignoring the doctor's harangue on birth control;
- d. A woman was allegedly made to wear a sign that read, "I tried to get an abortion";

- e Nurses purportedly refused to help a woman move to the delivery table after she delivered her eighth baby on a stretcher; and
- f Doctors allegedly accommodated pregnant patients seeking abortion through curettage or *raspa*,

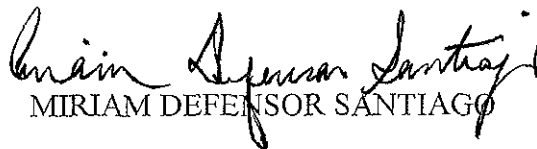
WHEREAS, these reported acts of abuse and maltreatment of pregnant women violate the rights of the victims as human beings and as patients,

WHEREAS, these reported acts call for an inquiry on the professional and criminal liabilities of these abusive doctors and health workers;

WHEREAS, these reported acts demean the medical profession, create a bad image of the government's health care services, and destroy the hospital's reputation

WHEREFORE, be it resolved, as it is hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the Senate Committee on Health and Demography and the Senate Committee on Youth, Women and Family Relations to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation on the alleged abuse and maltreatment of pregnant women by government health workers at the Dr Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital.

Approved


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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