

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



Senate
Office of the Secretary

23 FEB 13 P3:52

SENATE
P. S. Res No. 478

RECEIVED BY:

Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

**RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN
INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, TO ADDRESS THE FAST
TRANSMISSION OF HAND, FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE AMONG FILIPINO
CHILDREN IN THE COUNTRY**

1 **WHEREAS**, Article II, Section 15 of the Philippine Constitution provides that
2 "The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill
3 health consciousness among them";
4

5 **WHEREAS**, the Philippine Constitution, under Article XIII, Section 12, also
6 guarantees that "The State shall establish and maintain an effective food and drug
7 regulatory system and undertake appropriate health, manpower development, and
8 research, responsive to the country's health needs and problems";
9

10 **WHEREAS**, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), hand, foot
11 and mouth disease (HFMD) is a common infectious disease that occurs most often in
12 children. It is a highly contagious viral infection with an incubation period of two (2)
13 to fourteen (14) days and with common symptoms of fever, painful sores in the
14 mouth, and a rash with blisters on hands, feet and buttocksⁱⁱⁱ;
15

16 **WHEREAS**, according to the Philippine Red Cross, HFMD is transmitted
17 through contact with nose and throat discharges and saliva of infected persons and
18 contaminated objects.^{iv} It is also acquired through the virus, if children get contact
19 with the skin lesions of an HFMD-infected person;
20

21 **WHEREAS**, as early as December 9, 2022, experts had already warned of
22 HFMD disease outbreak. During a televised public briefing, Dr. Rontgene Solante,
23 head of DOH Vaccine Expert Panel on Infectious Diseases, said HFMD infections
24 started in October 2022 in San Pascual, Batangas, where there were one hundred
25 five (105) cases detected mostly among children aged one (1) to sixteen (16)^v;
26

27 **WHEREAS**, Dr. Solante further added that in November 2022, around five
28 hundred forty (540) HFMD cases were detected in Albay, affecting kids one (1) to
29 ten (10) years old and the National Capital Region (NCR) also logged one hundred

1 fifty-five (155) HFMD cases from October to December 6, 2022, affecting children
2 aged eleven (11) and below;

3
4 **WHEREAS**, a news article from the ABS-CBN News, dated February 8, 2023,
5 reported that the Davao City health office was alarmed at the increase of HFMD
6 cases after noticing the fast transmission of the illness among children since January
7 2023. The entire Davao Region has recorded a three hundred sixty-eight (360)
8 confirmed cases of HFMD, ninety-two (92) cases of which consist mostly of children
9 zero (0) to nine (9) years old^{vi};

10
11 **WHEREAS**, based on a news report of the Philippine News Agency (PNA),
12 the Iloilo LGU, through its Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Maria Socorro Quiñon,
13 reported that they have monitored a rising cases of HFMD with six hundred seventy-
14 four (674) from January 1 to January 28, 2023, compared with only two (2) cases in
15 the same period in 2022^{vii};

16
17 **WHEREAS**, the Department of Health-Cordillera Administrative Region (DOH-
18 CAR) also noted a significant increase of HFMD cases in the Cordillera region since
19 October 2022. A total of one thousand three hundred nineteen (1, 319) cases were
20 reported in 2022, a nineteen-fold higher than the cases in 2021, which was only
21 seven (7). From January 1 to January 14, 2023, a total of ninety-three (93) suspect
22 cases were reported to the DOH-CAR. This is one thousand four hundred fifty (1450)
23 percent higher compared to the same period in 2022^{viii};

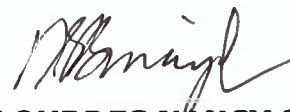
24
25 **WHEREAS**, an article from Rappler further reported an outbreak of HFMD in
26 the town of Banga in South Cotabato. It was reported that as of January 27, 2023,
27 at least fifty-one (51) children, with ages of one (1) to ten (10) years, have been
28 diagnosed with the disease. Also, at least fifteen (15) of its twenty-two (22)
29 barangays have infected residents, and the numbers are rising rapidly^{ix};

30
31 **WHEREAS**, with the very alarming fast transmission of the HFMD cases all
32 over our regions, there is a pressing need to act immediately and avert the spread of
33 the disease in the country;

34
35 **WHEREAS**, with this in view, it is the duty of the government to ensure that
36 Congress formulate appropriate and reactive policies responsive to address health
37 issues brought by HFMD;

38
39 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**,
40 that the Senate of the Philippines directs the proper Senate Committees, to inquire
41 in aid of legislation, to address the fast transmission of hand, foot and mouth
42 disease among Filipino children in the country.

Adopted,



MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY

ⁱ Article II, Section 15 of the Philippine Constitution

ⁱⁱ Article XIII, Section 12 of the Philippine Constitution

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.who.int/westernpacific/emergencies/surveillance/archives/hand-foot-and-mouth-disease>

^{iv} PH Red Cross's RC143 volunteers advised to be vigilant amidst threat of HFMD. December 12, 2022. <https://redcross.org.ph/tag/hand-foot-and-mouth-disease/>.

^v EXPERT WARNS OF HAND-FOOT-MOUTH DISEASE OUTBREAK by Willie Casas. December 9, 2022. <https://www.manilastandard.net/news/314285843/expert-warns-of-hand-foot-and-mouth-disease-outbreak.html>

^{vi} DAVAO CITY HEALTH OFFICE ALARMED OVER 'FAST TRANSMISSION' OF HFMD CASES. February 8, 2023. <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/02/08/23/fast-transmission-of-hfmd-cases-alarms-davao-city-health-office>

^{vii} RISING DENGUE, HFMD CASES REPORTED IN 30 ILOILO LGUs by Perla Lena. February 2, 2023. <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1194240>

^{viii} <https://caro.doh.gov.ph/doh-car-warns-public-against-hand-foot-and-mouth-disease/>

^{ix} HAND, FOOT, AND MOUTH DISEASE DOWNS 51 CHILDREN IN SOUTH COTABATO TOWN by Rommel Rebolledo. January 30, 2023. <https://www.rappler.com/nation/mindanao/children-diagnosed-hand-foot-mouth-disease-banga-south-cotabato-january-27-2023/>