

13<sup>th</sup> Congress of the Republic )  
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SENATE  
S. Res. No. 350

RECEIVED BY: 

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**Introduced by Senator Aquilino Q. Pimentel, Jr.**

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RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON RULES TO LOOK INTO, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE PROPOSED STANDING COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN

Whereas, Section 13, Article II of the 1987 Constitution provides that "the State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual and social well-being;"

Whereas, the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of the Child likewise provides that "the child, by reason of his physical and mental immaturity, needs special safeguards and care, including appropriate legal protection, before, as well as, after birth;"

Whereas, major threats on the survival, protection, development and participation of Filipino children have raised serious concern on the total well-being of our young population;

Whereas, the 2003 National Demographic and Health Survey revealed that for every 1000 births, 29 children will die before their first birthday, and 40 will die before age 5, thus ranking infant and child deaths in the country among the highest in the region;

Whereas, latest figures show that about 6,000 to 100,000 children are victims of commercial sexual exploitation concentrated in tourist destinations in Regions 1,3,4 and 8;

Whereas, soldiering by children is one of the worst forms of child labor, yet the Armed Forces placed the number of children involved in armed conflict at 13% of the total rebel population;

Whereas, the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) shows that 2,039 children are placed under police custody and languish in detention areas which do not provide separate facilities for youthful offenders;

Whereas, these alarming facts and figures underscore the need to actively address children's concern in the Senate;

Whereas, legislative measures that directly and principally relate to the rights and welfare of Filipino children must be prioritized and deliberated with greater dispatch, through the creation of a Standing Committee on Children;

Whereas, the main areas of concern and jurisdiction of the proposed Committee must be clearly defined so as to facilitate the legislative process of bills relating to the welfare of children;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, as it is hereby resolved, to direct the Senate Committee on Rules to look into, in aid of legislation, the proposed a Standing Committee on Children.

Adopted,

  
AQUILINO Q. PIMENTEL, JR.