

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
*Second Regular Session* )

5 NOV 10 P2:26

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

P.S. R. NO. 371

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Introduced by SENATOR EDGARDO J. ANGARA

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**RESOLUTION URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND DEMOGRAPHY TO INQUIRE INTO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF R.A. 9173 OR THE PHILIPPINE NURSING ACT OF 2002 WITH EMPHASIS ON THE COMPETITIVENESS OF THE COMPENSATION PACKAGES AND INCENTIVES PROGRAM ACCORDED TO OUR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

- WHEREAS,** Today aptly marks the 48<sup>th</sup> Nurses Week Celebration and parallel, the celebration of the 83<sup>rd</sup> Foundation Anniversary of the Philippine Nurses Association (*formerly Filipino Nurses Association*);
- WHEREAS,** Together with the celebration is the State's primordial duty to look into the various issues, concerns and challenges affecting the country's health care, specifically that of the nursing profession;
- WHEREAS,** Tracing back, Republic Act 7164, or the Philippine Nursing Act of 1991, was crafted to create a definitive legislation that will improve and enhance the nursing practice and advance the nursing profession in the country;
- WHEREAS,** Congress rightly anticipated the possibility of the nurses' diaspora in the country that it pushed for the passage of Republic Act No. 9173, or the Philippine Nursing Act of 2002;
- WHEREAS,** Section 2 of Republic Act No. 9173, the Philippine Nursing Act of 2002, is relevant, *to wit:*


*"It is hereby declared the policy of the State to assume responsibility for the protection and improvement of the nursing profession by instituting measures that will result in relevant nursing education, humane working conditions, better career prospects and a dignified existence for our nurses.*

*The State hereby guarantees the delivery of quality basic health services through an adequate nursing personnel system throughout the country. (Emphasis supplied)"*

- WHEREAS,** Although the country enjoys the distinction of being reputedly the number one major exporter of nurses to the world and the second major exporter of physicians (India being first), it is saddening and equally maddening that here, at the home front, a severe health care crisis is threatening to implode;
- WHEREAS,** Hospitals, whether public or private, all over the country have reported the loss of their senior experienced nurses, less than ideal nurse-patient ratios, and new nurse entrants who are not as effective as they used to be. No less than the Philippine General Hospital (PGH), the largest hospital in the country and the major training hospital for doctors and nurses in the Philippines are losing 300 to 500 nurses of their 2000 health workforce every year;
- WHEREAS,** The lure for greener pastures continue to linger as government-employed nurses receive a measly monthly salary ranging from P8,000 - P10,000 (\$150-\$200) which is a mere 5% of the \$3,000 - \$4,000 monthly pay abroad. Other nurses receive even less, particularly those from private hospitals and clinics because their salary would depend on the income of the hospital or clinic;
- WHEREAS,** Altho the Philippines has produced a surplus of nurses for export since the 60's, the large exodus of nurses in the last four years has been unparalleled in nursing migration history;
- WHEREAS,** Such a trend of increasing health human resource outflows to other countries, without corresponding incentives to the brave few who chose to stay, will eventually bled the country dry of nurses; and
- WHEREAS,** Despite the chronic under funding of the health sector (the health budget went down from 1.6% in 2004 to 1.1% in 2005 of the GNP), government must persistently and unfailingly find win-win strategic solutions and multi-disciplinary approaches to address this alarming and disturbing scenario.

***BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED,*** To direct the Senate Committee on Health and Demography to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the implementation of the provisions of Republic Act No. 9173 or the Philippine Nursing Act of 2002, with the end in view of proposing positive and urgent measures to prevent the alarming exodus of the country's health professionals, especially our nurses; re-visiting /re-assessing the provisions of the law and the government's approach to instituting reforms to our health care industry, with emphasis on the competitiveness of the compensation packages and incentives of our local nurses, to ensure the continued delivery of efficient and effective health care to the people and to the country.

*Adopted,*

  
**EDGARDO J. ANGARA**  
Senator