

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

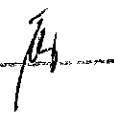
SECRETARY

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SENATE

P.S. RES NO. 206

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Introduced by **SENATOR COMPAÑERA PIA S. CAYETANO**

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**A RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND DEMOGRAPHY TO LOOK INTO, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE EXISTING GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS TO ADDRESS THE EMPLOYMENT PROBLEM OF HEPATITIS-B CARRIERS**

**WHEREAS**, studies have shown that the Philippines is considered hyperendemic for Hepatitis B (HBV) and now affects more than eight (8) million or around ten percent (10%) of Filipinos;

**WHEREAS**, hepatitis B virus infection is the recognized cause of chronic hepatitis and cirrhosis, and is likewise said to be the cause of hepato-cellular carcinoma;

**WHEREAS**, most Hepatitis B carriers are ignorant of their condition because symptoms manifest only when the carriers are in the prime of their lives;

**WHEREAS**, a study conducted in the Philippines from November to December 2004 showed that most chronic hepatitis B patients were not aware that they were carriers of the virus;

**WHEREAS**, securing a medical certificate or health record is a requirement demanded by most employers locally and abroad;

**WHEREAS**, many hepatitis B carriers encounter difficulties in obtaining employment as their health records reflect that they are "unfit for employment";

**WHEREAS**, a lot of job applicants who are hepatitis-B carriers were rejected because of their health records;

**WHEREAS**, reports show that the prevalence of HBV infection among overseas Filipino workers is at 4.2% which translates to as many as 12,000 potential workers yearly who may be denied employment solely because of misconceptions about the risk

of HBV transmission, the lack of knowledge about the natural history of this disease and the risk of developing complications while at work;

**WHEREAS**, although safe work practices and standard precautions need to be adhered to by individuals with chronic HBV infection, they should not be discriminated upon or treated differently from;

**WHEREAS**, it is important for the government to address the employment problem of Hepatitis-B carriers who can still contribute to the Philippine economy and should not be deprived of employment opportunities.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, that the Senate of the Philippines direct the Committee on Health and Demography to look into, in aid of legislation, the existing government programs to address the employment problem of hepatitis-b carriers.

Adopted,

  
**COMPAÑERA PIA S. CAYETANO**  
Senator