


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

7 NOV 19 2011

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

P. S. Res. No. 214

Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON HEALTH AND DEMOGRAPHY AND OTHER APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES IN THE SENATE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE RISING PROLIFERATION OF ILLEGAL HUMAN ORGAN TRADE IN THE PHILIPPINES WITH THE END IN VIEW OF PROTECTING THE HEALTH AND WELL BEING OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC

WHEREAS, the protection of public health is the primary duty of the State, as it is its mission to promote and protect the well being of its citizens;

WHEREAS, last June 7, 2007, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) expressed alarm over the rising cases of trade in human organs in Asia and stated that trafficking for human organs is now on the rise in China and in many impoverished states in Southeast Asia, like Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, the Philippines and Vietnam;

WHEREAS, it has been reported that the Philippines, together with India, Colombia and Brazil, to name a few, is one of the known suppliers of human kidneys to First World countries like the U.S., Canada, and Great Britain;

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization (WHO) reported that kidney failure is increasingly common in rich countries, often because of obesity or hypertension, but a growing shortage of transplant organs has fuelled a black market that exploits needy donors and risks undermining voluntary donation schemes;

WHEREAS, on February 2007, the Department of Health reported that there is a proliferation of illegal traffic in human organs in the Philippines and stated that much of the trade in human organs, especially kidneys, takes place on the black market, citing a recent University of the Philippines study which revealed that there were 3,000 men and women who had sold one of their kidneys for Php70,000 to Php120,000 (\$1,440 to \$2,469) in one slum area alone in Manila;

WHEREAS, based on a study conducted by Norbert Lameire of the International Society of Nephrology, the United Arab Emirates sends its kidney patients to the Philippines for transplants. The health insurance takes care of the \$95,000 fees of which \$10,000 go to the kidney donor;

WHEREAS, with the ever-increasing demand for kidney transplant, some kidney patients resort to transplants from living non-related donors (LNRDs) or the so-called kidney vendors or commercial donors who offer one of their kidneys for a financial consideration;

WHEREAS, according to the data gathered by the NKT1, the survival rates for kidney transplants were registered at 90-95% for living-related donors and about 80-85% for cadaver donors.

WHEREAS, the trade in human organs is alive and well in the Philippines and rogue transplant surgeons, physicians and middlemen are taking advantage of the organ shortage and the proliferation of kidneys available in countries where poverty is rife;

WHEREAS, human organs are priceless and cannot be equated with monetary value. Selling of any part of the human body is corrupting the very meaning of human dignity and is reducing the human body to a mere commodity;

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need for the government to initiate a series of consultations with private and public health sector leaders on how to regulate organ donation in the face of rampant illegal trafficking in human organs;

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need for the government to conduct an investigation into the human organ trade in the country in order to enact legislative measures that will provide stiffer penalties for the perpetrators of this inhuman and unethical practice and provide the policy framework for our medical practitioners in the conduct of organ transplants.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as it is hereby resolved to direct the Senate Committees on Health and Demography and other appropriate Committees in the Senate to conduct an inquiry, *in aid of legislation*, into the rising proliferation of illegal human organ trade in the Philippines with the end in view of protecting the health and well being of the general public.

ADOPTED,


MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID -
Senator