


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

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SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

P. S. Res. No. 297

Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC ORDER AND ILLEGAL DRUGS, EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE AND OTHER APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES IN THE SENATE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE REPORTED PREVALENCE OF DRUG USE AMONG HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF PROVIDING THE NEEDED POLICY INTERVENTIONS THAT WOULD ADDRESS THE DRUG USE MENACE

WHEREAS, the protection of public health is a paramount policy issue especially as this principle echoes the constitutional mandate of the State to protect the health of its citizens and to adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development;

WHEREAS, the Philippines is a signatory to the International Agreement on the Single Convention on Narcotics Drugs and the Agreement on Psychotropic Substances designed to achieve coordination and uniformity in the war against drug abuse;

WHEREAS, the use of illegal drugs brings dangers and risks beyond the physical, psychological and mental disorders as children in drug use are exposed to the world of illegal activities and criminality and are vulnerable to harassment and exploitation by both drug dealers and the police;

WHEREAS, in a study conducted by the Department of Education (DepEd) - Health and Nutrition Center (HNC) in 17 randomly selected high schools in each region in the country to determine the prevalence of drug use among the students, it was found out that 10 percent of the high school students in our public schools have tested positive for drug use;

WHEREAS, the study conducted by DepEd-HNC further indicates that drug use in the secondary schools is most prevalent in the National Capital Region (NCR), Region III (Central Luzon), VII (Central Visayas), X (Northern Mindanao), XI (Davao) and the CARAGA Region;

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need for the Department of Education (DepEd) to intensify its information, education and communication (IEC) campaign against illegal drugs given the alarming incidence and prevalence of drug use among high school students in our public schools;

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to institutionalize a program intervention that would make high school students aware of the ill-effects of drug abuse given that the current PNP statistics show that 65 to 75 percent of heinous crimes in the country are drug-related; and

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to properly train and increase the knowledge of educators, guidance counselors and guidance coordinators on this Herculean task of providing drug addiction counseling to high school students in our public schools where the prevalence of drug abuse has been proven to be high.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as it is hereby resolved to direct the Senate Committees on Public Order and Illegal Drugs, Education, Arts and Culture and other appropriate Committees in the Senate to conduct an inquiry, *in aid of legislation*, into the reported prevalence of drug use among high school students in our public schools, with the end in view of providing the needed policy interventions that would address the drug use menace.

ADOPTED,


MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID
gml Senator *gml*