

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

8 MAY 14 P3 55

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_



PSR No. 401

Introduced by Senator Loren Legarda

**RESOLUTION**

**URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON YOUTH, WOMEN AND FAMILY RELATIONS, HEALTH AND DEMOGRAPHY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE, WELFARE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT TO LOOK INTO THE STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF REPUBLIC ACT 8980, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT ACT, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF LOWERING THE COUNTRY'S INFANT MORTALITY RATE**

*Whereas*, in a report titled "State of the World's Mothers 2008: Closing the Survival Gap for Children Under 5," the Philippines was identified as the top country in the world with the highest inequity in the survival rate of some 368.17 million children under 5 among 55 countries;

*Whereas*, the report cited that at least 31% of children under 5 are missing out on basic health care, that nearly half of the poorest children under 5 do not get health care when they need it, and that a poor child is 3.2 times more likely than a rich child to die before reaching age 5;

*Whereas*, infant mortality rate in the country was reported to be 32 for every 1,000 live births, according to the National Statistics Office Family Planning Survey;

*Whereas*, the country's Millenium Development Goal is to reduce infant mortality rate to 27 for every 1,000 live births by 2015;

*Whereas*, Republic Act 8980, otherwise known as the Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) Act, was enacted in 2000 to achieve improved infant and child survival rates by ensuring that adequate health and nutrition programs are accessible to young children and their mother from the pre-natal period throughout their early childhood years;

*Whereas*, enforcing hunger mitigation programs such as the ECCD system which includes nutrition service programs that provide for the needs of young children from birth to age six should be encouraged to end hunger and reduce infant mortality rates;

*Whereas*, For the implementation of the ECCD Act, the amount of Four hundred million pesos (P400,000,000.00) per year for five (5) years upon the effectivity of the Act was appropriated for the National ECCD Program of the Council;

*Whereas*, appropriation for the ECCD system only begun in 2005 and the intended appropriation has not been completely released;

*Whereas*, there is a need to re-visit Republic Act 8980 to address the issue of maternal and child health care and thereby reduce infant mortality rate by amending the law and infuse more capital for the implementation of the ECCD system;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, by the Senate of the Philippines, to urge the Senate Committees on Youth, Women and Family Relations, Health and Demography and Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development to look into the status of implementation of Republic Act 8980, otherwise known as the Early Childhood Care and Development Act, with the end in view of lowering the country's infant mortality rate.

Adopted,



**LOREN LEGARDA**  
Senator