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SENATE

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 89

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INTRODUCED BY SENATOR VILLAR

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**RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND  
DEMOGRAPHY TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE  
INCREASING SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASE (STD) CASES IN THE  
COUNTRY AND TO RECOMMEND APPROPRIATE LEGISLATION AND OTHER  
REMEDIAL MEASURES TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEM**

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Health (DOH) has expressed alarm over the rising cases of human immuno-deficiency virus (HIV) that causes the deadly AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases (STD) in the Philippines. For the month of January 2010, new HIV cases reached an all-time high of 143. The figure has surpassed the 2009 high of 126 HIV cases, which was recorded in December last year;

**WHEREAS**, in the first six months of 2010, the Department tallied 809 HIV/AIDS cases, compared to 362 for the same period last year. The Philippines has registered 6,042 HIV/AIDS cases since record-keeping began in 1984;

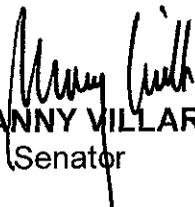
**WHEREAS**, the Philippine National AIDS Council (PNAC) executive director, Ferchito Avelino, said this had been the trend in the country for the past three years, and that there were already 1,244 HIV cases reported as of the end of 2009. What was alarming, Avelino said, was that the figure represented only 34 per cent of the cases, which meant that the remaining 66 per cent had yet to be accounted for;

**WHEREAS**, Avelino, being a former director of the health department in Bicol, said the PNAC had noted new cases of HIV infections in the region during the past two months, causing alarm among local health authorities. He said there were 90 confirmed HIV cases among Bicolanos although the actual report from testing centers in the region mentioned only 26 cases;

**WHEREAS**, Lucena City health officials have expressed also alarm over the rising cases of sexually transmitted disease (STD) among local youngsters. Dr. Vincent Martinez stated that as of July there had been 31 cases. He said the number of STD cases for the current year had surpassed the average number of victims for the past five years. Martinez said what also alarmed local health officials was the indifference of the victims. The known HIV cases in the city are not sex workers but ordinary people. No exact figures could be provided because it is believed that there are more unreported cases;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED,** to direct the Committee on Health and Demography to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the increasing sexually transmitted disease (STD) cases in the country and to recommend appropriate legislation and other remedial measures to address the problem.

Adopted,

  
MANNY VILLAR  
Senator