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SENATE
P.S. RES NO **146**

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by **SENATOR PIA S. CAYETANO**

**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 PEOPLE WHO HAVE
HEPATITIS-B INFECTION**

WHEREAS, studies have shown that the Philippines is considered hyperendemic for Hepatitis B virus (HBV) where an estimated one out of eight Filipinos are affected with the Hepa-B virus or 16% of Filipinos;¹

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 people who have Hepatitis B infection are ignorant of their condition because symptoms manifest only when they 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 Filipinos with hepatitis B who are HBsAg positive have been discriminated from employment, both local and overseas as they have been declared "UNFIT TO WORK" even if there is no medical, legal or logical basis that such a state is inappropriate for employment;²

¹ Dr. Eternity Labio's presentation "Hepatitis-B and Employment", June 15, 2010
² Ibid.

WHEREAS, approximately more than 13 million Filipinos have been or will be discriminated from gainful work and employment unless the discriminatory practice of unlawfully labeling them as "Unfit to Work" is expressly prohibited;³

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 people who have hepatitis-b infection.

Adopted,


PIA S. CAYETANO
Senator

³ Ibid.