

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

SENATE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

9 JUL 15 P 13,

SENATE
P. S. R. No. 1198

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY,
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE NEED FOR AN EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT
ORGAN PROCUREMENT SYSTEM THAT WILL RETRIEVE, PRESERVE,
TRANSPORT AND SYSTEMATICALLY ALLOCATE ORGANS TO POTENTIAL
RECIPIENTS WAITING FOR ORGAN TRANSPLANTATION

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article II, Section 15 declares that: "the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instil health consciousness among them";

WHEREAS, various media organs report that the Integrated Program on Organ Donation (IPOD), a non-stock, non-profit and non-government organ retrieval service provider initiated by Filipino doctors, said that the country needs effective and efficient organ procurement organizations that will retrieve, preserve, transport and systematically allocate organs to potential recipients waiting for organ transplantation;

WHEREAS, the group cited that the country does not have enough organs available for transplant, pushing many patients to rely on "living donors" who live in poverty and want to sell their body parts to earn quick cash, and that the overwhelming demand for organs has led to exploitation and abuse due to organ trafficking;

WHEREAS, the group also claims that one main reason behind the organ shortage is the country's anemic system of collecting organs from cadaver donors or donors who are already brain dead, as proven by statistics from the Philippine Renal Disease Registry pointing out that only roughly 5 percent of kidneys transplanted in the Philippines come from cadaver donors, while the rest come from either living-related or living non-related donors;

WHEREAS, the group points out that the country only averaged about 15 deceased organ donors each year from 1999 to 2007;

WHEREAS, a representative of the group said that had the proper system been in place, cadaver donations would come from victims of stroke and vehicular accidents and not brain dead donors;

WHEREAS, the report said that the only facility that collects organs from brain dead patients at present is the National Kidney and Transplant Institute's Human Organ Preservation Effort (Hope) Foundation;

WHEREAS, representatives from the medical groups said that there is there is also no sustained information campaign on the value of donating as well as on how one can donate, and cited that few people notice that the back portion of their driver's license card is actually a donation form as an example;

WHEREAS, legislation should address this gaping hole in the country's health care system, and should formulate laws that would put a more efficient system in place so that Filipino organ transplant patients would receive the proper care;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved in the Philippine Senate, to direct the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation, on the need for an effective and efficient organ procurement system that will retrieve, preserve, transport and systematically allocate organs to potential recipients waiting for organ transplantation;

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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