
Introduced by Senator Manny B. Villar

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE, WELFARE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, TO REVIEW AND ASSESS THE MEASURES AND/OR STEPS BEING UNDERTAKEN WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SENIOR CITIZENS LAW AIMED AT CREATING AWARENESS OF THE GOOD FEATURES OF THE STATUTE AND RELEVANT POLICIES AND ITS EFFECTIVE ENFORCEMENT IN GENERAL

Whereas, Article XIII Section 11 of the 1987 Constitution provides, "[t]he State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost. There shall be priority for the needs of the under-privileged, sick, elderly, disabled, women, and children. The State shall endeavor to provide free medical care to paupers;"

Whereas, Article XV Section 4 of the Constitution states that "[t]he family has the duty to care for its elderly members but the State may also do so through just programs of social security;"

Whereas, the people concerned must be educated and informed of their rights, and the corresponding establishments mandated to grant privileges and discounts to senior citizens must be made aware of their responsibilities;

Whereas, despite the enactment of the Senior Citizens Law, there are reports that the same is not being followed either on account of lack of information or in utter disregard of the statute

Whereas, there are reports that some drugstores provides a limited time in issuing discounts to senior citizens, thus when that particular hour is up, such establishments no longer give discounts;

Whereas, some drugstores' personnel would refuse to dispense drugs to the senior citizens on the pretext that the particular drug being purchased is already out of stock;

Whereas, some employees of government hospitals still charge the senior citizens for hospital services which would otherwise have been free as provided by law;

Whereas, some Senior Citizens have even refused to avail of the Card discounts claiming

that the refusals to provide them with the benefits have caused public spats and embarrassments because it made them look like beggars;

Whereas, the Expanded Senior Citizens Act has provided certain fines and even imprisonment for the erring individuals and business establishments but only a few, if not none, has been punished for their non-compliance; Now therefore be it

RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to direct the Committee On Social Justice, Welfare And Rural Development and other appropriate committees to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, to review and assess the measures and/or steps being undertaken with regard to the implementation of the Senior Citizens Law aimed at creating awareness of the good features of the statute and relevant policies and its effective enforcement in general.

Adopted,


MANNY VILLAR