

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

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SENATE  
P. S. R. No. 1435

H&C V. 11



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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY,  
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED NEED TO CREATE MEASURES  
THAT WILL RAISE THE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES OF FILIPINO NURSES

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 18 declares that: "The State affirms labor as a primary social economic force. It shall protect the rights of workers and promote their welfare";

WHEREAS, the *Philippine Daily Inquirer*, in its 26 October 2009 issue reported that about half a million nursing board exam passers in the Philippines are unemployed or underemployed;

WHEREAS, it was also reported that according to Chairman Emmanuel Angeles of the Commission on Higher Education, some 177 nursing schools that have failed to pass a single graduate in the nursing licensure exam will closed due to their poor teaching standards and facilities needed for on-the-job-training;

WHEREAS, Angeles also reportedly ordered the evaluation of schools with passing rates below the national average;

WHEREAS, Emmanuel Geslani, a recruitment consultant reportedly suggested to rationalize nursing schools operating in the country; he claimed that there are about 1,000 nursing schools and these schools contribute to the glut of nurses who are either jobless or work in call centers, sales, or hotel or the service industry;

WHEREAS, it was also reported that Geslani said more nurses are expected to join the unemployed because of the 60,000 who pass the nursing board every year, the local labor market could only accommodate 5,000 new nurses and the foreign market, particularly the Middle East, could only absorb 15,000 new nurses;

WHEREAS, it was learned that the United States will need an additional 500,000 nurses by 2020, there is usually a long wait for immigrant-based petitions for nurses by hospitals;

WHEREAS, the news article reported that Lito Soriano of the e-LBS Recruitment, suggested that the government (national or local) should build more 200-bed hospitals to be able to give nurses the proper training required by foreign countries in order to address the oversupply of nurses in the Philippines;

WHEREAS, schools, which merely operate for profit, and do not inculcate the necessary skills to those seeking a nursing degree, should also be penalized for taking advantage of those who enroll in their institutions seeking higher learning only to find out that their studies were insufficient to help them pass the licensure exam;

WHEREAS, given the competitive market in the hospital and health care industry, Filipino nurses will need a solid two-year training program here before they could qualify to work abroad;

WHEREAS, given the need to raise the employment opportunities of Filipino nurses here and abroad, the government should heed the suggestions by recruitment consultants;

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 reported need to create measures that will raise the employment opportunities of Filipino nurses.

Adopted,

  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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