

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

SENATE  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

9 NOV 18 P1:33

SENATE  
P. S. R. No. 1479

RECEIVED BY: 

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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 REPORT THAT 20 PERCENT OF HEART  
ATTACKS IN METRO MANILA ARE CAUSED BY SECOND-HAND SMOKE

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 15 provides: "The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them";

WHEREAS, various media have reported that according to the Department of Health (DoH), second hand smoke causes over 20 percent of the number of heart attacks or acute myocardial infarction in Metro Manila;

WHEREAS, quoting the study from the World Lung Foundation and International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (The Union) DoH Secretary Francisco Duque III reportedly said that it only takes one to seven hours of weekly exposure to second-hand smoke to increase the number of heart attacks to 10 percent;

WHEREAS, the study also claimed that more than 50 percent Filipinos in Manila are exposed to second-hand smoke daily, which means that it is more possible that the people in Metro Manila are exposed regularly to second-hand smoke;

WHEREAS, Sec. Duque also reportedly said that heart attacks and circulatory system diseases were the top two killer diseases in 2005 and are caused by exposure to second-hand smoking; to prevent the increase of deaths due to such diseases, tobacco control ordinances should be followed and strictly implemented nationwide;

WHEREAS, Bloomberg Philanthropies representative Kelly Larson claimed that over five million people die from tobacco smoke-related illnesses, 13,000 to 18,000 of these people are from the Philippines;

WHEREAS, it was also reported that The Union claimed a reduction of 17 percent to 50 percent in the number of heart attacks in over 10 countries where the proper implementation of ordinances on tobacco control were implemented;

WHEREAS, it was reported that The Union and Bloomberg Philanthropies gave DoH a grant of \$745,000 to launch a program to intensify the ban against smoking and the implementation of Tobacco Regulation Act of 2003 through information campaigns and strict implementation of tobacco control ordinances; the grant will be used by the DoH to assist 12 local government units as pilot areas to become smoke-free over the next two years, specifically Nueva Vizcaya, Oriental Mindoro, Romblon, Capiz, Negros Oriental, Biliran, Southern Leyte, Western Samar, Misamis Occidental, North and South Cotabato, and Agusan Del Sur;

WHEREAS, although the DoH has been consistently working with local government units and non-government organizations in strengthening the campaign against smoking, there is a need to push for a stricter implementation of the Tobacco Regulation Act of 2003;

WHEREAS, the legislature should heed the call of non-government organizations calling for amendments to the Tobacco Regulation Act of 2003 such as putting graphic health warnings on half of cigarette packs, instead of text-based warnings that only occupy less than 30 percent of the pack;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the proper Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation, on the report that 20 percent of heart attacks in Metro Manila are caused by second-hand smoke.

Adopted,

*Miriam Defensor Santiago*  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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