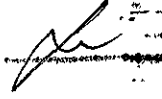


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SENATE  
P. S. R. No. 1481

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 4.9 MILLION FILIPINOS  
RISK CONTRACTING DIABETES

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, the *Philippine Daily Inquirer*, in an article dated 29 October 2009 reported that according to anti-diabetes advocates, more than 1.4 million Filipino adults, aged 20 and above, acquired diabetes in the last five years mainly because of unhealthy diets and sedentary lifestyles;

WHEREAS, the International Diabetes Federation, in their Diabetes Atlas for 2009, put the number of Filipino adults with Type 2 or acquired diabetes at 3.4 million out of a 51-million adult population, with 4.9 million more on the brink of developing diabetes;

WHEREAS, Dr. Tommy Ty Willing, president and chairman of Diabetes Philippines, estimated that in the next 20 years, more than half of the adult population worldwide will have diabetes;

WHEREAS, diabetes is a chronic disease in which the pancreas does not produce enough insulin or when the body can not effectively use the insulin it produces;

WHEREAS, it was reported that kidney disease is the top complication of diabetes, followed by heart attack, stroke, nerve disease that can lead to amputation of lower limbs and eye disease;

WHEREAS, warning signs include frequent urination, excessive thirst, increased hunger, weight loss, tiredness, lack of interest and concentration, vomiting and stomach pain (which is often mistaken for flu), a tingling sensation or numbness in the hands or feet, blurred vision, frequent infections and slow-healing wounds;

WHEREAS, Dr. Ty Willing further said that Type 2 diabetes can be prevented by maintaining healthy weight and being physically active; regular walking for at least 30 minutes per day has been shown to reduce the risk of Type 2 diabetes by 35 to 40 per cent;

WHEREAS, Dr. Ty Willing explained that lifestyle, unhealthy diet and less activity are to be blamed and that being Asian is also a risk factor even if there is no family history of diabetes, because the Asian race has a higher risk of developing diabetes which is already the subject of a study;

WHEREAS, the doctor reportedly estimated that a Type 2 diabetic needs at least P106 a day just for maintenance drugs, assuming he buys the cheapest generic drugs, that the patient needs to spend about P1,000 more every two to three months for regular blood tests, and that there is dialysis of at least twice a week, although the ideal is every other day, which ranges from P2,000 to P5,000 per session;

WHEREAS, it was further reported that along with the jump in diabetic patients among adults, doctors are also alarmed that those with acquired diabetes are younger, saying that usually, Type 2 diabetes develops among the middle-aged group between 40 to 50 years old, but now, even high school students have Type 2 diabetes which was very rare before;

WHEREAS, with about 285 million adult diabetics worldwide, the United Nations has mandated observance of World Diabetes Day every November 14, with "Understand Diabetes and Take Control" as this year's theme;

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to address this issue and institute measures to educate and protect our countrymen from the harmful and deadly effects of diabetes;

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 4.9 million Filipinos risk contracting diabetes.

Adopted,

  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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