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SENATE
P.S. Res. No. 773

12 MAY 21 2019



Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH, WOMEN AND FAMILY
RELATIONS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO
GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND ACTIONS IN ADDRESSING THE
CONTINUING ADDICTION OF STREET CHILDREN TO SOLVENTS AND
OTHER FORMS OF ADDICTIVE SUBSTANCES, ESPECIALLY THOSE
WHO ARE INHALING RUGBY IN PLAIN SIGHT AND IN BROAD
DAYLIGHT, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF EXPANDING EXISTING LAWS
THAT AIM TO PROTECT THE NATION'S YOUTH FROM THE ILL
EFFECTS OF THIS SOCIAL MALADY.

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 13 of the 1987 Constitution provides that "the State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual and social well-being. It shall inculcate in the youth patriotism and nationalism, and encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs";

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 15 provides that "the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them";

WHEREAS, despite the existence of landmark measures such as Republic Act 6425 or the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002, which mandated the creation of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) also known as the implementing arm of the Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB), and DDB Board Regulation No. 6, Series of 2007 and Board Regulation No. 2, Series of 2009, which classified toluene-based contact cement products without at least five percent (5%) mustard oil content as dangerous drugs, street children that are addicted to inhalants continue to wander the streets with compact solvent-filled plastic bags in hand;

WHEREAS, contact cement, which is mainly made up of toluene, remains to be one of the more popular drug of choice among users because of its affordability and accessibility;

WHEREAS, according to the American Academy of Pediatrics, inhalants have a stimulating effect which may result in aggressive behavior or hallucination on the part of the user;

WHEREAS, the United Nations Children's Fund or UNICEF has estimated that there are about 75,000 to 80,000 street children in the Philippines which increases by 6,365 annually per approximation of the Department of Social Welfare and Development;

WHEREAS, habitual users of rugby and other toluene-based products may suffer from brain damage, kidney and liver failure, sight and hearing loss, muscle weakness, leukemia, and death;

WHEREAS, data from the National Statistics Office's National Household Survey conducted in 2004 reveal that drug addiction destroyed the lives of at least 6.7 million Filipinos;

WHEREAS, to escape the harsh realities of poverty and destitution, substance abuse has been resorted to by Filipinos, especially those living in poor urban communities, as *this makes them forget about the hunger they endure for days*;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to direct the Senate Committee on Youth, Women and Family Relations to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into government policies and actions in addressing the continuing addiction of street children to solvents and other forms of addictive substances, especially those who are inhaling rugby in plain sight and in broad daylight, with the end in view of expanding existing laws that aim to protect the nation's youth from the ill effects of this social malady.

Adopted,


MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID
