

**SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC
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First Regular Session**



Senate
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE
P.S. Res. No. 103

RECEIVED BY: *Jui*

Introduced by Senator Poe

RESOLUTION

URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON HEALTH AND DEMOGRAPHY AND YOUTH, WOMEN AND FAMILY RELATIONS TO CONDUCT A STUDY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE EXTENT AND PREVALENCE OF MALNUTRITION AND HUNGER IN THE COUNTRY WITH THE END-IN-VIEW OF FORMULATING LEGISLATION AND RECOMMENDING APPROACHES AND SOLUTIONS TO HALT THE INCREASING NUMBER OF UNDERWEIGHT AND MALNOURISHED FILIPINO CHILDREN

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 15 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides, "The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them";

WHEREAS, it is the bounden duty of the State to promote the health and welfare of the youth as the hope and future of the Filipino Nation;

WHEREAS, the last National Nutrition Survey conducted indicated that around 3.3 million children below five years are underweight and 3.5 million children are below their normal height;

WHEREAS, in the Report submitted by the Department of Education, it was revealed that 562,262 pupils in the kindergarten and elementary levels currently enrolled in public schools are considered as "severely wasted"¹;

WHEREAS, that medically, it is proven that malnutrition not only slows a child's development but it also makes them vulnerable to a number of illnesses, and damages to children include lower intelligence and reduced physical capacity;

WHEREAS, that micronutrient malnutrition is evidenced by the fact that the vitamin A deficiency status of the country is considered as severe subclinical deficiency affecting children 6 months - 5 years and pregnant women and those who suffer from Iron deficiency anemia are composed of a considerable segment of the population composed of infants, pregnant and lactating women;

WHEREAS, that economically, these results to a reduction in productivity and stunts economic growth and in the end perpetuate the cycle of poverty which shall be a continuous burden unless a proper intervention program is implemented;

¹ Report of the Department of Education as cited in the GMA7 news article, February 27, 2013. In the website of Action Against Hunger (www.actionagainsthunger.org.uk), "severe wasting" is characterized by a massive loss of body fats and muscle tissue. Children who are severely wasted look elderly and their bodies are extremely thin and skeletal.

WHEREAS, malnutrition makes Filipino children the third poorest and most disadvantaged sector in the Philippines, next to fishermen and farmers;

WHEREAS, that demographically, according to the National Nutrition Survey the areas of Mindoro, Marinduque, Palawan, Bicol and the Eastern Visayas had the highest prevalence of malnutrition which requires the refocus of government intervention toward these areas of concern;

WHEREAS, an immediate comprehensive study must be conducted on adequate and immediate implementation of intervention programs as well as the existing health and food assistance in order to mitigate the danger of malnutrition, to halt infant mortality and foster economic growth; **THEREFORE, BE IT**

RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, by the Senate of the Philippines To Urge the Senate Committees on Health and Demography to conduct a comprehensive and immediate study, in aid of legislation, on the extent and prevalence of malnutrition and hunger in the country with the end-in-view of formulating legislation and recommending approaches and solutions to halt the increasing number of underweight and malnourished Filipino children.

Adopted,


GRACE POE