

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



Senate
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 220

RECEIVED BY: *ji*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE DANGER POSED BY BENZODIAZEPINES, AN ANTI-ANXIETY DRUG, ON THE TREATMENT POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER, ACCORDING TO A RECENT WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION REPORT

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article XIII, Section 12 states that "The State shall establish and maintain an effective food and drug regulatory system and undertake appropriate health, manpower development, and research, responsive to the country's health needs and problems;"

WHEREAS, according to various reports from different news agencies, a World Health Organization (WHO) report warned on the danger posed by benzodiazepines, an anti-anxiety drug, on individuals suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD);

WHEREAS, the WHO report said that benzodiazepines should not be offered to reduce acute traumatic stress symptoms or sleep problem in the first month after a potentially traumatic event;

WHEREAS, the international health body said that another negative effect of the benzodiazepine to PTSD patients include developing tolerance to the effects, and that patients could become defendant on the drug and suffer a withdrawal syndrome once they stopped taking the said drug;

WHEREAS, the WHO report said the primary health care workers should offer basic psychosocial support to the individuals exposed to trauma instead of administering the drug to the patient;

WHEREAS, Congress should take note of this latest report from the WHO and consider amending relevant laws pertaining to the use and sale of medicine, as well as the treatment of PTSD in the country;

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 danger posed by benzodiazepines, an anti-anxiety drug, on the treatment post-traumatic stress disorder, according to a recent World Health Organization report.

Adopted,

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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