

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. 310

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Introduced by Senator Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III

RESOLUTION

**DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN
INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE NEED TO ENACT MEASURES
TO PREVENT THE OUTBREAK OF HAND, FOOT, AND MOUTH DISEASE IN
THE COUNTRY**

WHEREAS, protecting and promoting the right to health of the people and instilling health consciousness among them is a vital State policy as stated in *Article II, Section 15* of the *Constitution*;

WHEREAS, in the year 2012, the Department of Health ("DOH") received official communication from the World Health Organization ("WHO") about a then unknown disease in Cambodia that claimed the life of sixty (60) children under seven (7) years old;

WHEREAS, after extensive investigations by the WHO and the Ministry of Health of the Kingdom of Cambodia, this disease is what we know today as the Hand, Foot, and Mouth Disease ("HFMD"), caused by enteroviruses, such as polioviruses, coxsackieviruses, echoviruses, and other enteroviruses;

WHEREAS, HFMD is a viral disease that affects mostly infants and children and is characterized by fever, painful sores in the mouth, and a rash with blisters on hands, feet, and also the buttocks;

WHEREAS, according to the WHO, individual cases and outbreaks of HFMD occur worldwide, with outbreaks occurring year-round in tropical and subtropical countries;

WHEREAS, the Philippines, being a tropical country, is vulnerable to HFMD outbreaks, and while only forty-three (43) cases of HFMD were reported by the DOH in 2012, the statistics may be inaccurate as the DOH also said that HFMD cases are reported with irregularity;

WHEREAS, since school children are the most at risk of being infected with HFMD, outbreaks are more likely to occur in schools where contact between well-children and infected children is inevitable, such that some schools have recently issued Health Bulletins regarding HFMD;

WHEREAS, my own son had recently been infected with HFMD, and so were the children of some of my friends and office staff;

WHEREAS, there is a need for the Department of Health and other relevant government agencies to inform the public of the measures being respectively undertaken by them to prevent the outbreak of HFMD in the country, considering that there is currently no available vaccine to counter the said disease;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE NEED TO ENACT MEASURES TO PREVENT THE OUTBREAK OF HAND, FOOT, AND MOUTH DISEASE IN THE COUNTRY.

Adopted,


AQUILINO "KOKO" PIMENTEL III