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Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

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RESOLUTION

**DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY,
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED INCIDENT IN CEBU OF A
NEWBORN CHILD WHOSE MOUTH WAS COVERED WITH TAPE BY AN
ATTENDING NURSE**

WHEREAS, under Section 3, Article XV of the 1987 Philippine Constitution, the State shall defend the right of children to special protection from all forms of neglect, abuse, cruelty, exploitation and other conditions prejudicial to their development;

WHEREAS, Section 11, Article II of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that the State values the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human rights;

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 7610 or the Special Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act affirms the policy of the State to provide special protection to children from all forms of abuse, neglect, cruelty exploitation and discrimination and other conditions, prejudicial their development; provide sanctions for their commission and carry out a program for prevention and deterrence of and crisis intervention in situations of child abuse, exploitation and discrimination

WHEREAS, according to news reports, an attending nurse covered the mouth of a newborn baby boy with tape to keep him from crying loudly;

WHEREAS, the incident happened while the infant was in the nursery of Cebu Puericulture Center and Maternity House (CPCMH);

WHEREAS, according to the infant's mother, she asked for the tape to be removed but the attending nurse refused and answered her to remove it herself. However, the attending nurse eventually volunteered to remove it;

WHEREAS, it was reported that while the attending nurse was removing the tape across the infant's mouth and cheek, a bit of the infant's skin stuck on the tape, causing the baby to cry¹;

WHEREAS, according to the supervisor of the attending nurse, the tape was stuck on the infant's mouth to keep the pacifier in place and that that the pacifier may have fallen from the infant's mouth;

¹ Sun Star Cebu website, Photo of newborn with mouth taped causes outcry, May 11, 2014, <http://www.sunstar.com.ph/cebu/local-news/2014/05/11/photo-newborn-mouth-taped-causes-outcry-342450>

WHEREAS, no official statement has been given by the hospital regarding the incident;

WHEREAS, the Commission on Human Rights and Department of Health, Central Visayas together with PNP and DSWD are investigating the incident;

WHEREAS, an incident of this nature is very alarming considering that Filipino culture and values foster affection, care and protection of children;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, as it is hereby resolved directing the proper Senate committees to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the reported incident in Cebu of a newborn child whose mouth was covered with tape by an attending nurse.



MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY
Senator