



Senate
Office of the Secretary

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

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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 822

RECEIVED BY: *fr*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID
OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED SHORTAGE OF HEALTH CARE WORKERS IN
PUBLIC FACILITIES

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 15 provides: "The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them";

WHEREAS, on 23 July 2014, Manilastandardtoday.com reported that seventy-four organizations led by the Philippine College of Physicians and the Coalition for Primary Care reportedly signed a manifesto on the increasing shortage of health care workers in public facilities;

WHEREAS, according to the report, the manifesto was signed after former Department of Social Work and Development Secretary Esperanza Cabral, in her State-of-the-Nation's-Health Address during the reported event, claimed that the health care situation in the country was getting worse as a result of the increasing shortage of health care workers in public facilities;

WHEREAS, Cabral reportedly said that there were 66,000 physicians, 500,000 nurses, and 74,000 midwives practicing their professions as of 2013, but only 3,000 physicians, 5,000 nurses, and 17,000 midwives were working in a public facility; it was said that this meant there were only 0.2 physicians, 0.4 nurses and 1.7 midwives per 10,000 people, which were 10 times less than the minimum of 24 health care workers per 10,000 patients recommended by the World Health Organization;

WHEREAS, Cabral also claimed that there was also a shortage of dentists, pharmacists, occupational therapists, physical therapists, speech pathologists, medical technologists, and other medical professionals;

WHEREAS, Cabral reportedly said that another proof of the health care crisis was that 47.6 percent of all the people dying were unattended by a doctor, and this problem would worsen as a result of the growing population;

WHEREAS, Cabral claimed that the Department of Health had received more funding for its universal health care program, but that would not be enough if the shortage of health care workers persisted;

WHEREAS, there is a urgent need for the national government and Congress to take immediate action and come up with sustainable solution to remedy the shortage of health care workers reportedly caused and aggravated by different factors such as the cross-country migration of Philippine health workers to more developed areas such as the United States, Europe, and the Middle East; and the reported lack of incentives to encourage doctors to work for the public sector;

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 reported shortage of health care workers in public facilities.

Adopted,

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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