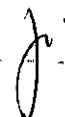


SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
SECOND REGULAR SESSION)



'15 FEB 18 P2:08

SENATE
P.S.R. 1182

RECEIVED BY 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY,
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORT THAT THE NUMBER OF PREMATURE
BABIES IN THE PHILIPPINES IS INCREASING AT AN ALARMING RATE

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, the *Philippine Star* reported on 9 February 2015 that a health advocacy group has sounded the alarm over the rapid increase in prematurity in the country;

WHEREAS, the news quoted Philippine Society of Newborn Medicine (PSNM) president Carina Quimbo as saying that some 368,000 pre-term babies are born annually in the Philippines and the figure is going up due to the rising number of teenage pregnancies;

WHEREAS, Quimbo reportedly said that there is need for more centralized and more concentrated efforts in ending this grave national health issue of death among the newborn;

WHEREAS, Anthony Calibo, officer-in-charge of the Children's Health Development Division of the Department of Health (DOH) said that prematurity is highly preventable if mothers would only submit themselves to proper pre-natal check-up;

WHEREAS, Calibo further claimed that there are newborn care practices that could save not only premature babies but full-term babies as well, including measures taken to ensure that infection and high-risk complications of a pregnant woman will be attended to properly;


WHEREAS, it was reported that the leading killer of premature babies is the respiratory distresses syndrome, a complication arising from the underdevelopment of the lungs;

WHEREAS, reducing infant mortality rates and improving maternal health are included in the Millenium Development Goals, which the Philippines endeavors to achieve by 2015, along with the international community;

WHEREAS, Congress, through relevant legislation, must ensure that Filipinos are fully aware of the risks of prematurity and the measures that could be taken to avoid it;

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 report that the number of premature babies in the Philippines is increasing at an alarming rate.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
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