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SENATE

P.S. R. No. 192

RE:

BY: 

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR CYNTHIA VILLAR

RESOLUTION

URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE, WELFARE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION AND ECONOMIC EFFECTS OF THE PANTAWID PAMILYANG PILIPINO PROGRAM (4Ps) WITH THE END INVIEW OF REVIEWING, AMENDING AND IMPROVING THE PROGRAM TO EFFECTIVELY BRING ABOUT THE LIFTING OF THE BENEFICIARIES OUT OF POVERTY

WHEREAS, The government of the Philippines, through the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) implemented a conditional cash transfer (CCT) Program dubbed as Pantawid Pamilya Pilipino Program (4Ps) encouraging the extremely poor households to increase their investment in their children's human capital.

WHEREAS, THE 4Ps – as adapted from the CCT Program in Latin America – is a poverty reduction strategy that provides cash grants to extremely poor household to allow the members of the families to meet human development goals, health, nutrition, and education.

WHEREAS, The 4Ps- has many cross-cutting issues such as targeting, monitoring and evaluation. To evaluate the impact and to make sure that the assistance is given directly to deserving and qualified beneficiaries thereby ensuring a graft free program.

WHEREAS, The poorest households identified as beneficiaries with pregnant women members and children 0-14 years old (3-14 years old children attending day-care school) shall receive P500.00 as health and nutrition grant and P300.00 per child as education grant monthly. A maximum of three children beneficiaries shall be covered by the educational grant. A household with three (3) children beneficiaries shall receive P1,400.00 as monthly grants for a period of five years for as long as they comply with the conditional ties of the program.

WHEREAS, the other conditionalities include – pregnant women shall get pre natal care, childbirth shall be attended by skilled/trained health professionals, and mother shall get postnatal care thereafter; Parents/guardians shall attend family planning sessions/mothers classes, parent effectiveness service and other topics that are of their needs and interest; Children 0-5 years old shall get regular preventive health checkups and vaccines; Children in elementary school must at least receive twice a year deworming; and Children 6-14 years of age shall enrol in schools and attend at least 85% of the time.

WHEREAS, The 4Ps household grantee shall be the most responsible adult person in the household. The monthly grant shall be conveyed via Landbank Cash Cards. In areas, where there are no available Landbank, the available rural banks will be utilized.

WHEREAS, The approved budget for 4Ps in 2016 was P65 billion. Earlier in 2015 it was at P62 billion. In 2017, the proposed amount to be given to this same program further expands to P78.7 billion.

WHEREAS, Whatever the impact on the social and health status of the 4.4 million or so beneficiaries, the economic conditions of these same families could not possibly register any improvement without addressing their capabilities to fend for themselves.

WHEREAS, There is belief from the general public that that the Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) program or the so-called Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) is a dole out system to help the poor. The CCT or 4Ps will never be sustainable in its present design, and will only continue to increase and deepen the country's public debts.

WHEREAS, The social objectives of the program are laudable. But the program has to be combined with activities to graduate the poor families from lack of employment and livelihood opportunities and from low levels of productivity and earnings towards increased opportunities for economic inter-actions and more productive roles in their respective communities.

WHEREAS, It is worthwhile to add another objective to this bill, that of *teaching the beneficiary families* "how to fish" and not just to give them fish all the time. Like, the beneficiaries can immediately do food production in their backyards for food security, the head of family to get employable skill or learn how to earn a living to get out of object poverty.

WHEREAS, other relevant government agencies like the Department of Health, the Department of Education, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority and the LGUs can be involved in this endeavour by including among the conditions of cash transfers, capability building and skills training for the parents in order to further increase their chances of improving their lot and permanently graduating from poverty or to avoid duplication of function and the validation of beneficiaries.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, by the Senate that the Committee on Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the implementation and economic effects of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) with the end in view of reviewing, amending and improving existing program to bring about genuine graduation of the beneficiaries from poverty.

Adopted.


CYNTHIA VILLAR
Senator