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Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

**RESOLUTION**  
**CALLING ON THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN**  
**INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE GROWING NUMBER**  
**OF CASES OF HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY AND ACQUIRED**  
**IMMUNODEFICIENCY SYNDROME WITH THE END IN VIEW OF**  
**STRENGTHENING PREVENTION, TREATMENT, CARE, SUPPORT AND**  
**PUBLIC AWARENESS THEREON**

**WHEREAS**, in the 16<sup>th</sup> Congress, this representation has filed several resolutions regarding Human Immunodeficiency Virus (“HIV”) and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (“AIDS”), and these bore fruit through the concerted efforts of the Senate, in the form of Committee Report no. 499 that submitted to the plenary a bill that strengthened the comprehensive policy of the Philippines regarding HIV and AIDS;

**WHEREAS**, in 2014 it was reported that HIV is becoming prevalent in the Philippines and that Department of Health is expecting the number of people with HIV would exceed 30,000 by year end and this number coincides with 16 HIV incidents being documented daily<sup>1</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, according to Philippine National AIDS Council (“PNAC”) HIV and AIDS epidemic in the country is crossing over to the general population due to the direct causal connection of female sex<sup>2</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, notwithstanding the lack of support and funding from the Philippine Government, the challenges and barriers to HIV awareness starts from finding out how to increase the number of people taking the HIV test especially among those people who practice high HIV-risk activities, this is according to PNAC<sup>3</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, another challenge is the misconception of HIV and AIDS, this is according to Kate Montecarlo Cordova, founder and chair of the Association of Transgender People in the Philippines<sup>4</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, according to Ferchito Avelino, PNAC Secretariat Head, “In the past, we were limited to the MSM (men having sex with men) and PWID (people who inject drugs) population. But now we have the bridge from the high-risk population to the general population. This is a cause for alarm,”<sup>5</sup>;

<sup>1</sup> Philippine Star Website; <http://www.philstar.com/headlines/2014/12/01/1397950/people-living-hiv-campaign-increased-awareness>.

<sup>2</sup> ABS-CBN Website; <http://www.abs-cbnnews.com/nation/12/02/14/hiv-aids-crossing-general-population-ph>.

<sup>3</sup> Supra [1].

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> Supra [2].

**WHEREAS**, in a more recent report the Department of Health has indicated that there are more than 700 new cases of HIV as of May 2016<sup>6</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, among the 739 new cases, a total of 687 cases (93 percent) happened through sexual transmission, mostly from MSM, which accounted for 589 cases or 86 percent. Homosexual contact was responsible for 357 cases; followed by bisexual contact with 232 cases; and 98 cases from heterosexual contact<sup>7</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, injecting drug use (IDU) accounted for the transmission of 50 new cases; while two others were cases of mother-to-child transmissions<sup>8</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, with the latest figure, it means that there are already 3,802 HIV cases reported to the DOH, including 518 AIDS cases and 228 deaths, during the first five months of the year<sup>9</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, the existence of documented incidents of HIV and AIDS presupposes the existence of undocumented incidents of said diseases<sup>10</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, this representation urges the appropriate Senate committees to also look into the inputs during the 16<sup>th</sup> Congress for any relevant matters that could be utilized in furtherance of our fight against HIV and AIDS; and

**WHEREAS**, considering the foregoing, there is a need for a concerted effort from all fronts in immediately spreading awareness regarding HIV and AIDS in order to address the prevalence, misconceptions and proactively act in deterring said diseases.

**RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, by the Senate of the Philippines, to conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, on the growing number of cases of human immunodeficiency and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome with the end in view of strengthening prevention, treatment, care, support and public awareness thereon.

Adopted,

  
**MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY**  
Senator

<sup>6</sup> Philippine Daily Inquirer Website; <http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/796214/700-new-hiv-cases-reported-in-may>.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*