

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

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**SENATE**  
P.S. Res. No. 709

Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

**RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND DEMOGRAPHY TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED SHORTAGE OF ANTI-RABIES VACCINES, THE POLICIES, PLANS AND PROGRAMS TO PREVENT AN OUTBREAK OF RABIES RELATED DISEASES, AND TO REVIEW THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9482, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "ANTI-RABIES ACT OF 2007"**

1 WHEREAS, Section 15, Article II of the 1987 Philippine Constitution declares it a  
2 State policy to "...protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health  
3 consciousness among them";

4 WHEREAS, Section 11, Article III of the Constitution further mandates the State  
5 to "...adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which  
6 shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all  
7 the people at affordable cost";

8 WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 9482, or the "Anti-Rabies Act of 2007" established a  
9 National Rabies Prevention and Control Program which provides for the control,  
10 prevention of the spread, and eventual eradication of human and animal Rabies;

11 WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 102, S. 1999 directs the Department of Health  
12 (DOH) to "prevent and control diseases among populations at risks" and to act as the  
13 "direct service provider for specific programs that affect large segments of the  
14 population";

15 WHEREAS, pursuant to Special Provision No. 9 of the DOH budget under the  
16 2018 General Appropriations Act, allocates the amount of Fifteen Billion, Five Hundred

1 Ninety Million, Six Hundred Fifty Five Thousand Pesos (P15,590,655,000) for the  
2 procurement of drugs, medicines and vaccines for distribution to government health  
3 facilities;

4 WHEREAS, the performance indicators of the DOH budget under Volume II of  
5 the 2018 Appropriations Act includes an increase in the number of rabies-free areas to  
6 47;

7 WHEREAS, prevention of the spread of certain infectious diseases through mass  
8 vaccination is an essential component of public health policy;

9 WHEREAS, on 28 March 2018, it was reported that officials of the DOH warned  
10 that there is a global shortage of human rabies vaccine;

11 WHEREAS, rabies is a deadly viral disease which is transmitted to humans when  
12 bitten by infected animals, and has an extremely high mortality rate;

13 WHEREAS, 165 cases of rabies infection were in the latest edition of the DOH's  
14 Field Health Services Information System (FHSIS);

15 WHEREAS, rabies is a major public health issue, as it can cause immense  
16 suffering for the general public, but can be eliminated through effective implementation  
17 of anti-rabies programs;

18 WHEREAS, it is baffling that rabies continues to be a public health problem in the  
19 Philippines, when it has nearly been eradicated in other countries;

20 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate of the  
21 Philippines, to direct the Senate Committee on Health and Demography to conduct an  
22 inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the reported shortage of anti-rabies vaccines, the  
23 policies, plans and programs to prevent an outbreak of rabies related diseases, and to  
24 review the implementation of Republic Act no. 9482, otherwise known as the "*Anti-*  
25 *Rabies Act of 2007*".

26 *Adopted,*

  
**GRACE POE**