

SENATE



Senate
Office of the Secretary

P. S. Res. No. 82

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Introduced by Senator Ralph G. Recto

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RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND DEMOGRAPHY TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE PROLIFERATION OF INTERNATIONALLY AND LOCALLY-MANUFACTURED FALSIFIED MEDICINES, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ADDRESSING THE PROBLEM AND ENSURING THE SAFETY OF THE PUBLIC

1 WHEREAS, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) 2019 report
2 entitled "Transnational Organized Crime in Southeast Asia: Evolution, Growth and
3 Impact" noted that the highest incidence of "falsified medicines" in the Southeast Asia
4 occurs in the Philippines;

5 WHEREAS, the same UNODC report defined falsified or fraudulent medicines as
6 those marketed with the intention of deceiving buyers as to the content of what they
7 are buying and include misbranded, spurious, fake, and falsely-labelled drugs;

8 WHEREAS, from 2014 to 2017, it was reported that fake medicines entering the
9 Philippines through illicit trade mostly came from Pakistan, India and China;

10 WHEREAS, these fake medicines include slimming and whitening products and
11 erectile dysfunction drugs as well as naproxen, paracetamol and dextromethorphan;

12 WHEREAS, aside from imported fake medicines, locally-manufactured counterfeit
13 over-the-counter medicines and anti-tuberculosis drugs have been a concern in the
14 country;

15 WHEREAS, in 2018, no less than President Rodrigo Roa Duterte identified the
16 availability of fake paracetamol brands in the country as a growing threat and thus,
17 ordered the arrest of makers and sellers of the said fake medicines;

18 WHEREAS, in the same year, the Philippine National Police operatives raided a
19 warehouse in the City of Manila and confiscated various brands of fake medicines
20 amounting to a total PhP 1.2 million;

1 WHEREAS, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) also seized around PhP 3
2 million-worth of fake fever medicines, pain killers and sex enhancer pills last year;

3 WHEREAS, it was reported that fake medicines are often sold in retail and at
4 lower prices in sari-sari stores nationwide with buyers coming mostly from the poorest
5 sector of the society;

6 WHEREAS, the FDA also cracked down online shopping sites that sell fake
7 medicines and intensified its information dissemination and public service campaign
8 against the sale and use of fake medicines;

9 WHEREAS, it is imperative for Congress to be briefed by the national government
10 agencies concerned on the state of the proliferation of fake medicines in the country to
11 determine the magnitude of the problem;

12 WHEREAS, it is also important for Congress to determine the appropriate
13 measures to address the proliferation of fake medicines in the country in order to
14 ensure the safety of the public who consume the said drugs: Now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, as it is hereby resolved, To direct the Senate
16 Committee on Health and Demography to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on
17 the proliferation of internationally and locally-manufactured falsified medicines, with the
18 end in view of addressing the problem and ensuring the safety of the public.

Adopted,



RALPH G. RECTO

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