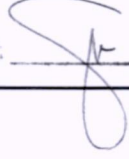


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**SENATE**

**P.S. Res. No. 204**

RECEIVED BY: 

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Introduced by SENATOR SONNY ANGARA

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**RESOLUTION**

**URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO INCLUDE SWIMMING AS A SUBJECT IN THE CURRICULUM OF ALL PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS TO REDUCE THE INCIDENTS OF DEATH DUE TO DROWNING**

1 WHEREAS, based on a study conducted by the World Health Organization  
2 (WHO), about three thousand (3,000) young Filipinos aged 6 to 14 years old die  
3 yearly because of drowning;

4 WHEREAS, a 2014 WHO study stated that drowning is a serious and  
5 neglected public health threat claiming the lives of 372,000 people annually,  
6 worldwide. The study also showed there is high incidence of drowning in low and  
7 middle-income countries and among children and young people;

8 WHEREAS, Philippines as an archipelagic country, has a wide stretch of  
9 coastline of about 36,289 kilometers, thus increasing the risk of drowning,  
10 particularly among people living near bodies of water. With an average of 20  
11 typhoons entering the country yearly, the Philippines is also prone to heavy flooding.  
12 This also poses significant risk of drowning among children and adults alike;

13 WHEREAS, in their study: *The Global report on drowning: preventing a*  
14 *leading killer*, the WHO, as a specialized agency of the United Nations primarily  
15 concerned with international public health, recommended that one of the most  
16 proven strategies to reduce the number of drowning cases among the youth is to  
17 teach school-age children basic swimming skills;

18 WHEREAS, countries such as Canada and England have swimming lessons in  
19 their school curriculums as their mandate to protect the safety of the youth. In the  
20 city of Winnipeg in Manitoba, Canada, students in grades 3 and 4 learn basic  
21 swimming skills and water safety education. While in England, swimming lessons has  
22 been a part of the national curriculum for physical education of primary schools  
23 since 1994.

24 WHEREAS, based on WHO's gathered data in 2016, our country recorded  
25 3,202 fatal drowning victims;

26 WHEREAS, with our country's vast coastlines, the government should  
27 prioritize the inclusion of swimming in the K to 12 curriculum to address one of the

1 biggest neglected public health issues worldwide, ultimately saving the lives of  
2 thousands of children and youth in the country;

3 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, by the Senate  
4 of the Philippines, to urge the Department of Education to consider including  
5 swimming subjects in the curriculum of all primary and secondary schools to show  
6 the government's firm act to decrease the drowning incidents in the country that  
7 primarily affects children and youth in the country;

8 RESOLVED FURTHER, to direct the appropriate Senate committee to  
9 conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the implementation of Republic Act No.  
10 10533, otherwise known as the Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013, with the end  
11 in view of including safety of the youth as one of the standards and principles in  
12 developing the enhanced basic education curriculum.

Adopted,



**SONNY ANGARA**