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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
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Senate

Office of the Secretary

SENATE

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P.S. Res. No. 232

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Introduced by SENATOR JOEL VILLANUEVA

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RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT, DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, AND PHILIPPINE STATISTICS AUTHORITY TO COLLECT, ANALYZE, PUBLISH, AND UPDATE THE COUNTRY'S DISABILITY STATISTICS USING THE APPROPRIATE DATA COLLECTION INSTRUMENT TO ENSURE A MORE RESPONSIVE GOVERNMENTAL POLICY AND PROGRAMS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITY

**WHEREAS**, Article 1 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CPRD) describes person with disabilities (PWDs) as "those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual, or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others";

**WHEREAS**, the World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that about over a billion people or about 15% of the world's population have some form of disability;

**WHEREAS**, according to the 2010 Census of Population and Housing Report, there are 1.44 million PWDs in the Philippines, comprising 1.57% of the Philippine population;

**WHEREAS**, the most recent disability data was based on the 2010 Census of Population and Housing since the 2015 Census of Population and Housing did not include any fundamental data on PWDs;

**WHEREAS**, existing international instruments, such as the World Programme of Action Concerning Disabled Persons (1982), the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities (1993), and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol

(2006) stressed the need for appropriate information collection systems to protect, promote, and fulfill all human rights of PWDs and to push for an evidence-based and effective disability policies, programs, and services;

**WHEREAS**, WHO and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP) emphasized that “disability statistics can provide a wealth of information on the full lived experience of persons with disabilities ranging from impairments, difficulties in undertaking and participating in activities, and barriers they face in their lives. Information can be extended from an individual to the whole population – to determine prevalence of domains of disability, for example – and further developed by adding demographic or other population features, such as age, sex, race, and socio-economic status”;<sup>1</sup>

**WHEREAS**, WHO and UN ESCAP strongly recommend the collection of data relating to “activity limitations or the capacity of a population to perform daily activities such as mobility, communication, self-care, and interpersonal relations and data about participation restrictions or what members of a population actually are able to do in their lives, and, in particular, what features of their physical built, interpersonal, or social environment help or hinder them”<sup>2</sup> to fully capture the PWD population;

**WHEREAS**, absence of any recent and accurate data on disability and PWDs result in non-inclusive, unresponsive, often-detrimental sets of governmental policies and programs;

**WHEREAS**, report from the PWD community has also shown that many of the PWDs were not surveyed in the census, thus making the official data incomplete and inaccurate;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate, to urge the Department of Education, Department of Health, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Department of Interior and Local Government, and Philippine Statistics Authority to collect, analyze, publish, and update the country’s disability statistics using the appropriate data collection instrument to ensure a more responsive governmental policy and programs for Persons with Disability.

Adopted,

  
**SENATOR JOEL VILLANUEVA**

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<sup>1</sup> World Health Organization and United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (2008). Training Manual on Disability Statistics. Available at <https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/Training-Manual-Disability-Statistics-E.pdf> (date last accessed: November 20, 2019).

<sup>2</sup> Id.