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SENATE

P. S. RES. NO. 291

RECEIVED BY: _____

Introduced by SENATOR JOEL VILLANUEVA

**RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO
CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, TO DETERMINE
THE PREPAREDNESS OF THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT ON THE
DETECTION, PREVENTION, MINIMIZATION, TREATMENTS, AND
CONTAINMENT MEASURES ON THE REPORTED POTENTIAL
OUTBREAK OF AN UNKNOWN PNEUMONIA VIRUS IN CHINA, AND
THE CAPACITY OF OUR HEALTH WORKERS AND
PROFESSIONALS TO HANDLE SAID DISEASE**

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them;¹

WHEREAS, the State is mandated under the 1987 Philippine Constitution to establish and maintain an effective food and drug regulatory system and undertake appropriate health, manpower development and research, responsive to the country's health needs and problems;

WHEREAS, recent reports of "viral pneumonia of unknown origin" have prompted health authorities in Hong Kong, Taiwan, South Korea, Singapore, and Malaysia to set up emergency and precautionary measures amid concerns that such communicable disease can be highly contagious similar to SARS virus;

WHEREAS, over 1.2 million Chinese tourists visited the Philippines in the first eight months of 2018 alone. Such figure is over 20 percent higher than the record during the same period in 2017;

WHEREAS, measures that must immediately be crafted include stricter health control and screenings at airports and seaports, especially considering the growing number of Chinese tourists and workers in the Philippines;

¹ Sec. 15, Art. II, 1987 Philippine Constitution.

RESOLVE BY THE SENATE, to direct the proper senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, to determine the preparedness of the Philippine government on the detection, prevention, minimization, treatments, and containment measures on the reported potential outbreak of an unknown pneumonia virus in China, and the capacity of our health workers and professionals to handle said virus.

Adopted,


SENATOR JOEL VILLANUEVA