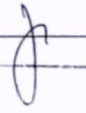


SENATE  
P. S. Res No. 293

20 JAN 21 P2:45

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

**RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN  
INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE UNKNOWN STRAIN OF  
CORONAVIRUS FIRST DETECTED IN WUHAN, CHINA, WITH THE  
INTENTION OF DETERMINING APPROPRIATE MEASURES AND NECESSARY  
FUNDING REQUIREMENTS TO ENSURE A QUICK AND EFFICIENT  
GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO ADDRESS A POSSIBLE OUTBREAK OF THE  
MYSTERIOUS RESPIRATORY VIRUS IN THE COUNTRY**

WHEREAS, on December 31, 2019, the World Health Organization (WHO) China Country Office was informed of cases of pneumonia of unknown etiology (unknown cause) detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province of China<sup>1</sup>;

WHEREAS, the clinical signs and symptoms reported are mainly fever, with a few cases having difficulty in breathing, and chest radiographs showing invasive pneumonic infiltrates in both lungs<sup>2</sup>;

WHEREAS, viral samples have been taken from patients and analyzed in the laboratory, with officials in China and the WHO concluding that the infection is a coronavirus<sup>3</sup>;

WHEREAS, as of January 3, 2020, a total of 44 patients with pneumonia of unknown etiology have been reported to WHO by the national authorities in China<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> World Health Organization Website, Pneumonia of unknown cause – China, <https://www.who.int/csr/don/05-january-2020-pneumonia-of-unknown-cause-china/en/>

<sup>2</sup> World Health Organization Website, Novel Coronavirus – China, <https://www.who.int/csr/don/12-january-2020-novel-coronavirus-china/en/>

<sup>3</sup> BBC News Website, China coronavirus: Number of cases jumps as virus spreads to new cities, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-51171035>

<sup>4</sup> World Health Organization Website, Pneumonia of unknown cause – China, <https://www.who.int/csr/don/05-january-2020-pneumonia-of-unknown-cause-china/en/>

23 WHEREAS, a top Chinese government-appointed expert says a mysterious  
24 respiratory illness that has killed at least three people can be transmitted by  
25 humans, heightening concern about the outbreak<sup>5</sup>;

26 WHEREAS, according to news reports, South Korea, Japan, and Thailand  
27 confirmed presence of the mysterious respiratory virus in their countries<sup>6</sup>;

28 WHEREAS, in a statement, DOH Secretary Francisco Duque III said he has  
29 instructed the Bureau of Quarantine to intensify the screening of all incoming  
30 travelers, especially those who showed signs of "fever or signs of respiratory  
31 infection<sup>7</sup>;

32 WHEREAS, there is a need to determine an emergency response plan in case  
33 the outbreak reached Philippine shores and ensure that the Philippine Government  
34 and its instrumentalities are fully equipped to address the same;

35 BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to direct the appropriate  
36 Senate Committees, to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation, on the unknown  
37 strain of coronavirus first detected in Wuhan, China, with the intention of  
38 determining appropriate measures and necessary funding requirements to ensure a  
39 quick and efficient government response to address a possible outbreak of the  
40 mysterious respiratory virus in the country.

Adopted,

  
**MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY**  
Senator

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<sup>5</sup> The New York Times News Website, China Confirms New Coronavirus Spreads From Humans to Humans, <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/01/20/world/asia/coronavirus-china-symptoms.html>

<sup>6</sup> BBC News Website, China coronavirus: Number of cases jumps as virus spreads to new cities, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-51171035>

<sup>7</sup> Philippine News Agency Website, DOH tightens screening amid 'mysterious' virus outbreak in China, <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1090041>