

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

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SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 438

Introduced by SENATOR RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE TO DIRECT THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO INITIATE A MORE COMPREHENSIVE AND EQUITABLE RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC WITHOUT SACRIFICING THE ATTENTION TO OTHER HEALTH-RELATED CONCERNS

1 WHEREAS, as hospitals become overwhelmed with COVID-19 patients and
2 treatment, clinical care of patients with other illnesses, whether critical or emergency,
3 along with preventive measures and routinary treatments, laboratory tests and check-
4 ups, weaken;

5 WHEREAS, medical centers discourage patients of other illnesses to physically
6 come unless it is absolutely necessary, for fear of infection;

7 WHEREAS, essential medical supplies, and even medical personnel, become
8 short in supply;

9 WHEREAS, on March 27, 2020, the Department of Health issued a directive
10 for the continuous operation of Dialysis Facilities in the Philippines during the
11 Enhanced Community Quarantine;

12 WHEREAS, this directive acknowledges that the "uninterrupted delivery of *the*
13 *procedure* is critical for the treatment of persons suffering from kidney or renal
14 diseases;

15 WHEREAS, due to quarantine guidelines, lack of public transportation, among
16 others, realization of this directive continues to fail;

17 WHEREAS, last year, the Philippines lost its certification as a polio-free country
18 after 19 years when a case of a three-year old girl from Lanao del Sur was brought to

1 its attention. Several other cases in other regions were reported after that. This came
2 even before the declaration of a State of National Public Health Emergency;

3 WHEREAS, in June 2, 2020, poliovirus was detected in the waters between two
4 (2) barangays in Calamba, Laguna. The threat becomes real as the State continues
5 to focus its attention to the COVID-19 pandemic;

6 WHEREAS, these are among the issues and concerns that must not be
7 overlooked, forgotten, lest ignored;

8 WHEREAS, COVID-19 may be infecting a lot of people and taking a significant
9 number of lives, but it is also depriving others of desperately needed treatment and
10 attention;

11 WHEREAS, there is a need for a more wide-ranging, but scientific and health-
12 conscious, and compassionate approach to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic; one
13 that takes into consideration other health concerns without sacrificing the necessary
14 attention towards COVID-19 treatment and control;

15 WHEREAS, the State must exhaust all possible approaches to effectively,
16 efficiently, and equitably address the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic: Now,
17 Therefore be it

18 **RESOLVED BY THE SENATE**, to express the sense of the Senate to direct
19 the Department of Health to initiate a more comprehensive and equitable response to
20 the COVID-19 pandemic without sacrificing the attention to other health-related
21 concerns.

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Adopted.


RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.