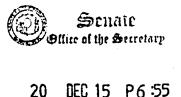
EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES Second Regular Session



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## SENATE

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## P. S. RES. NO <u>598</u>

## Introduced by SENATOR JOEL VILLANUEVA

## RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR, EMPLOYMENT AND HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF THE SENATE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE READINESS OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT IN IMPLEMENTING A NATIONAL COVID-19 VACCINATION PROGRAM, ESPECIALLY TO MEMBERS OF THE LABOR FORCE

**WHEREAS**, the World Health Organization (WHO) has reported that as of December 14, 2020, there have been 71,051,805 confirmed cases of COVID-19 globally, which include 1,608,648 deaths;

**WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 pandemic has threatened the global population and induced a global economic recession, necessitating the rapid development of vaccines and massive COVID-19 vaccine roll-out;

**WHEREAS**, , globally, according to the WHO, there are currently more than 50 COVID-19 vaccine candidates in trials, none of which received the approval of the Philippine Food and Drug Administration (FDA);

WHEREAS, the National Government targets to vaccinate only 70% of the Filipino population in the next three to five years, leaving the remaining 30% unprotected;

**WHEREAS,** there is currently 43.6 million members of the Philippine labor force, constituting approximately 40% of the Philippine population;

WHEREAS, the Philippine vaccine czar and National Task Force Chief Implementer said that the first priority in the vaccination would be the frontline health workers which account for 1.6% of the population or 1.76 million Filipinos, 2nd priority are the indigent senior citizens (3.78 million or 3.5% of the population), 3rd priority are the remaining senior citizens (5.67 million or 5.3% of the population), 4th priority are the remaining indigent population (12.9 million or 12% of the population), and 5th priority are the uniformed personnel (525,523 or .5% of the population);<sup>1</sup>

WHEREAS, considering that vaccine safety and effectiveness can be affected by changes in storage temperature, the government's logistic capacity and strategy should also be scrutinized;<sup>2</sup>

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** to direct the Senate Committee on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development and other appropriate committees of the Senate to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the readiness of the National Government in rolling out the effective, equitable, affordable, and timely COVID-19 vaccination of 100% of the Filipino population, especially to members of the labor force.

Adopted,

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> https://www.rappler.com/nation/philippines-prioritize-high-risk-areas-sectors-covid-19-vaccine-deployment

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Most vaccines also require refrigerated storage at between 2 and 8 °C. Some vaccines require temperatures as cold as -20°C. Some of the newer vaccines need to be kept ultra cold at -70°C. For frozen vaccines some of them can be safely stored for a limited time between 2 and 8°C. Source:who.int/news-room/feature-stories/detail/manufacturing-safety-and-quality-control