THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES Second Regular Session

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## SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 297

## INTRODUCED BY HON. MANNY VILLAR

## RESOLUTION

## DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH, WOMEN, AND FAMILY RELATIONS TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE ALARMING PREVALENCE OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY ON THE INTERNET INVOLVING FILIPINO CHILDREN, WITH THE END VIEW OF STRENGTHENING THE ENFORCEMENT OF REPUBLIC ACT 7610 AND TO PROPERLY ENSURE THE IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS TO THE VIOLATORS

Whereas, Article 34 of UN Convention on the Rights of the Child provides that "children have the right to be shielded from all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse, including their exploitative use in the pornographic performances and materials";

Whereas, pornographic exploitation of children is equivalent to abuse because it is an act that "debases, degrades, or demeans the intrinsic worth and dignity of the child as a human being and "gravely threatens or endangers the survival and normal development of children;

Whereas, as it is contained in an academic paper in the University of the Philippines Center for Integrative and Development Studies that "prostitutions in the Philippines has become a multi-dollar illegal industry and is now the fourth largest source of gross national product in the country";

Whereas, children become vulnerable to prostitution particularly on Internet-based pornography due to the escalating demand for younger persons among prostitution clientele;

Whereas, the easy access to the Internet in the countryside contributed to the swift growth of pornographic materials popularly exchanged over the Internet;

Whereas, developing countries, such as the Philippines, have become one of the target countries of producers and promoters of pornographic materials for the unabated propagation of pornographic materials on Internet;

Whereas, Article V, Section 9 of Republic Act 7610 clearly states that "any person who shall hire, employ, use, persuade, induce or coerce a child to perform in obscene exhibitions and indecent shows, whether live or in video, or model in obscene publications or pornographic materials or to sell or distribute the said materials shall suffer the penalty of *prision mayor* in its medium period";

Whereas, exploitation of Filipino children and production of pornographic materials involving Filipino children has not dwindled, instead it has increased dramatically over the years;

Now, therefore, **BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, to direct the Committee on Youth, Women, and Family Relations to conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, into the alarming prevalence of child pornography on the Internet involving Filipino children, with the end view of strengthening the enforcement of Republic Act 7610 and to properly ensure the imposition of sanctions to the violators.

Adopted,

MANNY B. VILLAR Senator