

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
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**SENATE**  
**P.S. Res. No. 995**

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Introduced by Senator MARK A. VILLAR

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**RESOLUTION**  
**DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN**  
**INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE OUTBREAK OF VACCINE-**  
**PREVENTABLE DISEASES SUCH AS PERTUSSIS**

1       **WHEREAS**, the Philippine Constitution declares that the State shall protect and  
2 promote the right to health of people and instill health consciousness among them;

3       **WHEREAS**, Pertussis, also known as whooping cough, is a contagious respiratory  
4 infection caused by a bacteria—either *Bordetella pertussis*, or *Bordetella parapertussis*.  
5 Pertussis starts as a mild cough and cold that lasts about two (2) weeks, followed by  
6 paroxysms or fits of coughing which lasts up to six (6) weeks;

7       **WHEREAS**, episodes of numerous rapid coughs followed by a crowing or high-  
8 pitched whoop coughing usually characterizes Pertussis, together with low-grade fever  
9 and/or vomiting. Infants are the most vulnerable age group to this disease, due to their  
10 underdeveloped immune system;

11       **WHEREAS**, the Department of Health (DOH) is closely monitoring the cases of  
12 Pertussis in the Philippines. From January 1 to March 30, 2024, data shows a total of one  
13 thousand one hundred twelve (1,112) cases with fifty-four (54) fatalities. The sharp rise  
14 of Pertussis cases was also seen in other countries such as the United Kingdom in Europe;

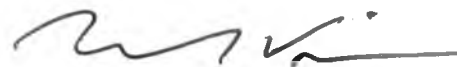
15       **WHEREAS**, DOH stated that, "The World Health Organization Regional Office in  
16 the Western Pacific confirmed that measles and Pertussis are concerns of many countries,  
17 because lockdowns during the COVID-19 pandemic hampered routine vaccination";

1           **WHEREAS**, Pertussis is a vaccine-preventable disease. According to DOH  
2 Secretary Teodoro Herbosa, the government has an existing stock of pentavalent  
3 vaccines—or five-in-one shots that immunize the body against Pertussis, Diphtheria,  
4 Tetanus, Hepatitis B, and Haemophilus influenza type B. However, despite the availability  
5 of these vaccines, government stocks run low, prompting the DOH to request assistance  
6 from the private sector in resolving the Pertussis vaccine supply shortage;

7           **WHEREAS**, early detection measures on a possible outbreak, identification of  
8 issues on vaccine supply chain, and addressing vaccine hesitancy should have been  
9 implemented at the outset to prevent a full-blown outbreak which now resulted to  
10 multiple fatalities;

11           **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, as it hereby resolved, to direct the  
12 appropriate Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation on the outbreak  
13 of Pertussis despite being a vaccine-preventable disease already covered by DOH  
14 vaccination programs, including the issue on the shortage of the vaccine supply.

*Adopted,*



**MARK A. VILLAR**