OH A PROBLETARY

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES First Regular Session

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SENATE P.S. Res. **101**

NECFIVED BY:

Introduced by Senator Villar

RESOLUTION

URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH, WOMEN, AND FAMILY RELATIONS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE GROWING NUMBER OF FILIPINO MAIL ORDER BRIDES, ON THE NON-IMPLEMENTATION OF RELEVANT LAWS FOR THE PURPOSE RESULTING IN THE VIOLATION AND CONTINUOUS DESECRATION OF OUR WOMEN, WITH THE END-IN-VIEW OF CHARTING REMEDIAL MEASURES TO PROTECT FURTHER THE DIGNITY OF THE FILIPINAS

Whereas, the 1987 Philippine Constitution recognizes the equal role of women in the development of the country as it enshrined the significant policy, "[t]he State recognizes the role of women in nation-building, and shall ensure the fundamental equality before the law of women and men";

Whereas, in an exclusive report of ABS-CBN's "Bandila" (August 16, 2007), it was reported that every year, around 300,000 to 500,000 Filipinas are leaving the country as mail order brides;

Whereas, the last two decades have witnessed the high rate of Filipino mail order brides that have become prostitutes and a substantial majority raped, abused and violated overseas;

Whereas, on June 13, 1990, a law was passed declaring as unlawful the practice of matching Filipino women for marriage to foreign individuals on a mail order bride basis including the acts of advertising, soliciting or distributing fliers, brochures and similar campaigns that debase and brought ignominy to the Filipino women;

Whereas, despite the presence of the statute, the practice of marketing Filipina women as perfect mail order brides remain as can be gleaned in the following internet addresses:

- 1. <u>www.afilipina.com</u>, in which the advertisement states "mail order brides, pen pal girls exclusively from the Philippines, lovely Filipina ladies, wishing to correspond and meet foreign foreign gentlemen for romance and possible marriage";
- 2. <u>www.2bwed.com</u>, in which the marketing statement goes, "World Class Service, for a tenth of the century, has been in the business to introduce girls from the Philippines who would like to correspond, meet and marry Western Men" and in which Filipina women can be "instantly ordered" subject to a \$ 5.00 processing fee;
- 3. <u>www.1mailorderbrides.com</u>, in which Philippine women from Luzon that includes Post-Graduates students are marketed like commodities;

¹ Article II, Section 14

Whereas, while economic difficulty, harsh realities of life and the seeming indifference of government to implement relevant laws, may be cited as rationale for the continued proliferation of mail order brides, an assessment and revisiting of our policies and laws must be conducted to protect our women and prevent the desecration of our women: Now therefore be it

Resolved, by the Senate of the Philippines, To urge the Senate Committee on Youth, Women, and Family Relations to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the growing number of Filipino mail order brides, the non-implementation of relevant laws for the purpose resulting in the violations and continuous desecration of our women, with the end-in-view of charting remedial measures to protect further the dignity of Filipinas.

Adopted,

MANNY VILLAR