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SENATE

P. S. Res. 304

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Gregorio B. Honasan II

RESOLUTION

CALLING FOR THE CONDUCT OF A STUDY THAT WILL CREATE A WITNESS PROTECTION PROGRAM IN THE SENATE TO SET IN PLACE SECURITY AND SUPPORT MECHANISM FOR RESOURCE PERSONS PROVIDING VITAL INFORMATION TO ANY COMMITTEE CONDUCTING INQUIRIES OR INVESTIGATION IN AID OF LEGISLATION WHOSE TESTIMONIES CAN PUT INTO RISK THEIR LIVES AND ECONOMIC STATURES

WHEREAS, it is provided under Art. VI, Sec.21 of the Constitution: "*The Senate or the House of Representatives or any of its respective committees may conduct inquiries in aid of legislation in accordance with its duly published rules of procedure. The rights of persons appearing in or affected by such inquiries shall be respected*".

WHEREAS, with the innate power of Congress, the Senate of the Philippines since its rebirth during the 8th Congress, has been investigating numbers of controversial issues concerning matters of national concern like the Kuratong Baleleng case, Jueteng Payola, Jose Pidal and recently the ZTE-National Broadband Network deal among others;

WHEREAS, it has become apparent that key witnesses, including family members, as a result of their voluntary appearance in the Senate inquiries and investigations during the past, had unfortunately undergone trauma and distress due to alleged intimidations and threats they have been receiving in order to prevent them from making statements that can incriminate people of influence and authority;

WHEREAS, more often than not, life after being a witness to Senate investigations turns out to become economically bleak;

WHEREAS, everytime that the Senate is in custody of witnesses to its investigations, the most that the institution can provide temporary shelter and protection while the investigation is on-going;

WHEREAS, it is about time that the Senate come-up with the proposed scheme with the primal intention to encourage more witnesses to come out to the open and testify and shed light to issues regardless of its seriousness and involvement of known personalities whose names can be besmirched for purposes of delivering justice to the Filipino people;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to call for the conduct of a study that will create a witness protection program in the Senate to set in place security and support mechanism for resource persons providing vital information to any committee conducting inquiries or investigation in aid of legislation whose testimonies can put into risk their lives and economic statures.

Adopted,


GREGORIO B. HONASAN II
Senator