

8 AUG -5 19:51

SENATE

P.S. Res. No. **551**

RECEIVED BY: 

---

Introduced by Senator Loren Legarda

---

**RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE TO REVIEW, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, MEASURES TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF NURSING EDUCATION IN THE COUNTRY WITH THE END IN VIEW OF PRODUCING HIGH-CALIBER NURSES WHO SHALL BE DEPLOYED AND EMPLOYED IN INTERNATIONAL AND LOCAL HOSPITALS AS AGENTS OF HEALTH**

*Whereas*, nursing is the most in-demand course in the country manifested by the total number of graduates recorded at 67,728 this year;

*Whereas*, the number of accredited nursing schools reached 460 in the current year, a far cry from the number of schools in other fields of health studies like medicine, midwifery, dentistry, pharmacy, physical therapy and occupational therapy which only have an average of 30 to 150 schools;

*Whereas*, only 43%, a decreased rate from the usual annual passing rate of 60-70%, out of 64,459 takers passed the June 2008 Nursing Board Examinations;

*Whereas*, Republic Act No. 9173, otherwise known as the Philippine Nursing Act, passed in 2002, provides that "it is the policy of the State to assume responsibility for the protection and improvement of the nursing profession by instituting measures that will result in relevant nursing education, humane working conditions, better career prospects and a dignified existence for our nurses";

*Whereas*, included in the said law is the role of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) to regulate nursing schools by issuing accreditation certificates and closure orders to schools depending on the performance of their students in the Nursing Board Exam;

*Whereas*, Memorandum No. 30, series of 2001, was also promulgated mandating the CHED to shut down schools whose performance in three (3) board examinations within 5 years is 3% and below, and issue a gradual phase out if it is 4-10%;

*Whereas*, there are allegations from different agencies like the Commission on Audit and Trade Union Congress of the Philippines that the apparent decrease of board passers is due to the inefficiency of CHED to shut down schools whose board examinations' performance is poor;

*Whereas*, the deteriorating quality of schools also contributes to an increase in the underemployment or unemployment rate in the country as the students who failed the exams cannot practice as nurses due to the stringent employment requirements enforced even in their localities;

*Whereas*, a reason why the economy stays afloat is due to the contribution of OFW remittances, the substantial 10% portion of which is coming from the 13, 000-15,000 nurses deployed every year in different countries;


*Whereas*, in the light of the country's development, the betterment of nursing education should be a priority to sustain the contribution of nurses' income to the economy;

*Whereas*, it is incumbent upon the Commission on Higher Education to initiate certain measures to improve the quality of nursing education in the country;

*Whereas*, it is incumbent upon Congress to establish, maintain and support a complete, adequate and integrated system of education relevant to the needs of the Filipino people and society as stipulated in Article XIV, Section 2, of the 1987 Philippine Constitution;

***NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED***, to direct the Senate Committee on Education, Arts and Culture to review, in aid of legislation, measures to improve the quality of nursing education in the country with the end in view of producing high-caliber nurses who shall be deployed and employed in international and local hospitals as agents of health.

**Adopted,**



**LOREN LEGARDA**  
Senator