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OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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SENATE

PS RES. NO. **613**

RECEIVED BY: 

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR PIA S. CAYETANO

**A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE/S TO
INQUIRE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED GOVERNMENT
CORRUPTION IN THE PROCUREMENT OF MEDICINES IN THE COUNTRY**

Whereas, Article 2, Section 15 of the Constitution states that "the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them;"

Whereas, an article in the *Manila Bulletin* dated 7 August 2008 cited a World Health Organization (WHO) study revealing that corruption exists even in the procurement of world's medicines;

Whereas, according to Dr. Guitelle Baghdadi Sabeti, WHO technical officer of Policy Access and Rational Use of Medicines Policy and Standards, 10% to 25% of the world's \$ 3-trillion annual spending on health services is lost to corruption;

Whereas, former Health Secretary Alberto Romualdez, chairman of the Medicine Transparency Alliance (META), stressed that government corruption in the procurement of medicines also exists in the Philippines;

Whereas, META even emphasized that corruption in the procurement of medicines does not exist exclusively in the government but is a process that also involves suppliers, distributors, and other parties that tolerate such practice;

Whereas, former Health Secretary Romualdez said that one of the indicators of corruption is the lower prices of the same drugs in other parts of Asia whose economies are more advanced than the Philippines;

Whereas, Roberto Pagdanganan, Vice Chairman of META, has been quoted in news reports as saying that an estimated Php 75 billion of the country's Php 150 billion budget for the procurement of medicines is lost to corruption;

Whereas, it is necessary to look into the alleged government corruption in the procurement of medicines because the amount lost to corruption may be used to address other problems that greatly affect the health of the Filipino people;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the appropriate Senate Committee/s to inquire, in aid of legislation, on the alleged corruption in the procurement of medicines in the country.

Adopted,


PIA S. CAYETANO