

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

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SENATE

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PS RES. NO. 626

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR PIA S. CAYETANO

A RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE/S TO INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE ALLEGED EXPLOITATIVE PRACTICE OF SOME HOSPITALS THAT EMPLOY REGISTERED NURSES AND NURSING GRADUATES AS "ON-THE-JOB TRAINEES" (OJTs) INSTEAD OF HIRING THEM AS REGULAR EMPLOYEES AND WITHOUT GIVING PROPER COMPENSATION, AND THE ALLEGATION THAT THESE HOSPITALS CHARGE THE NURSES ADDITIONAL FEES FOR TRAINING, WORK EXPERIENCE AND CERTIFICATION

WHEREAS, the Philippines is said to be the number one source of nurses in the world;

WHEREAS, given the availability of employment of nurses in other countries and the lure of greener pastures abroad, nursing schools continue to produce thousands of nursing graduates and attract nursing enrollees every year;

WHEREAS, as a result of this, University of the Philippines (UP) College of Nursing Dean Dr. Josefina Tuazon and Philippine Nurses Association (PNA) President Leah Samaco-Paquiz alleged that there is an oversupply of nurses which is now starting to become a problem in the country;

WHEREAS, despite the claim of an oversupply of nurses, there continue to be many public hospitals which do not meet the required nurse to patient ratio and are in fact understaffed, especially in the far-flung areas of the country;

WHEREAS, this sad reality may be due to the fact that the plantilla of a lot of public hospitals are outdated and can no longer service the needs of our people;

WHEREAS, nurses need to comply with a required minimum 2-year work experience for employment abroad and to obtain the required certification and as such, are constrained to work as OJTs in hospitals even without pay or with salaries below the minimum wage;

WHEREAS, according to reports, OJT nurses are further made to pay an amount ranging from Php 5,000.00 to Php 7,000.00, for said training/certification, depending on the hospital, and on the duration of the "training" or "experience" which may last from 6 weeks to 8 months;

WHEREAS, it is also reported that some hospitals charge additional fees from nursing students to allow them to become "interns" or be on duty in these hospitals for a certain number of hours as part of the requirement mandated by the Philippine Regulatory Commission before they can take their board exams;

WHEREAS, the PNA contends that hospitals should not be charging additional fees from nursing students since "internship" is a part of the nursing curriculum and the fee for this arrangement is already included in the tuition fee paid for by the students;

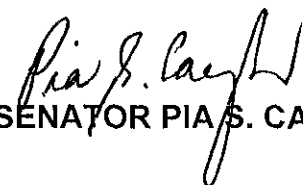
WHEREAS, these alleged anomalous practices are considered money-making schemes of hospitals that only aggravate and contribute to the problem of unemployment and underemployment of nurses in the country;

WHEREAS, there is a need to look into these contentions as they are demeaning not only to the nurses and students, but to the entire nursing profession in the country;

WHEREAS, there is also a need to look into the existing policies and regulations of the Department of Health which is tasked to oversee the operations of hospitals in our country.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Senate of the Philippine direct the appropriate Senate Committee/s to investigate, in aid of legislation, the alleged exploitative practice of some hospitals that are deemed to be demeaning to the nursing profession.

Approved.


SENATOR PIA S. CAYETANO