

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
FIRST Regular Session)

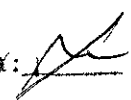


Senate
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SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 304

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Loren Legarda

RESOLUTION

**DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND
DEMOGRAPHY TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION,
INTO SERIOUS CONCERNS RAISED THAT AFFECT THE NURSING
PROFESSION WITH THE END IN VIEW OF FORMULATING A
COMPREHENSIVE POLICY MEASURE FOR THE PROTECTION OF
NURSING PRACTITIONERS AND THE PROFESSION, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES**

WHEREAS, the 1987 Constitution guarantees the protection and promotion of the people's right to health and instill health consciousness among them;

WHEREAS, an important component of the people's right to health is a key sector which provides essential health care and services to our people, the nursing profession;

WHEREAS, at the forefront for this key sector is the Philippine Nurses' Association;

WHEREAS, in a paper released on August 02, 2010 by the Philippine Nurses' Association, serious concerns relative to the profession were raised as follows:

1. Unemployment and Underemployment of nurses:

- Lack of available positions in the hospitals leading to overload of nurses (nurse to patient ratio);
- Lack of *plantilla* positions for nurses in public health;
- Contractualization of nurses through job-order schemes thru agencies;
- Rampant practice of hiring "volunteer" nurses where they have to pay in exchange of certificate of volunteerism and alleged training experience;

2. Non-implementation of decent wage and due benefits according to approved laws:

- Nursing Law of 2002 (Republic Act 9173) stating that the entry salary of Nurse position in the government is Salary Grade 15;
- Magna Carta of Public Health Workers (Republic Act 7305) granting benefits such as hazard pay, subsistence allowance, night shift differential and laundry allowance;

3. Lack of a Nurse Consultant position in the Department of Health who will oversee and manage related nursing issues and concerns in the country, both for government and private nurses;

4. Lack of monitoring the plight of overseas Filipino nurses working abroad:

- Many nurses become victims of illegal recruitment agencies or unfair labor practices in other countries;
- Delayed assistance to labor problems of distressed overseas Filipino nurses;
- Lack of protective schemes for Filipino nurses returning to the country e.g. age limit of hiring Filipino nurses;


5. Lack of Health budget that affects the implementation of health services especially in the poor, marginalized and far flung communities;

WHEREAS, unless we provide the adequate protection and pursue the rights of each and every nurse in the country, we cannot achieve the guarantees expressed in the 1987 Constitution to promote the people's right to health;

WHEREAS, there ought to be a comprehensive policy measure to address the aforementioned concerns with the end in view of protecting the rights of nurses and their profession.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, TO DIRECT THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND DEMOGRAPHY TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO SERIOUS CONCERNS RAISED THAT AFFECT THE NURSING PROFESSION WITH THE END IN VIEW OF FORMULATING A COMPREHENSIVE POLICY MEASURE FOR THE PROTECTION OF NURSING PRACTITIONERS AND THE PROFESSION.

Adopted,


LOREN B. LEGARDA
Senator