


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



'11 SEP -1 P4:14

SENATE
P. S. R. No. **582**

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE REPORTS THAT THERE COULD BE A FIVE-FOLD INCREASE FROM THE CURRENT COUNT OF LESS THAN 10,000 CASES OF HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS (HIV) AND ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY SYNDROME (AIDS) INFECTIONS IN THE COUNTRY BY 2015

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 15 of the same provides: "The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them";

WHEREAS, various news reports last 31 August 2011 during the 10th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific sponsored by the Asian Development Bank, Health Assistant Secretary Enrique Tayag reportedly said that around 45,000 Filipinos may be infected with HIV/AIDS before the current administration steps down in 2016 if government does not employ measures controlling its spread;

WHEREAS, it was also reportedly said in the congress that there could be a five-fold increase in HIV/AIDS cases by 2015 from the current count of less than 10,000 cases;

WHEREAS, these numbers were allegedly said to be the highest since the country first started monitoring the disease in 1984;

WHEREAS, data from a 2008 study reported that there were between 6,000 and 11,000 HIV/AIDS cases in the country, and that by March 2011, the total number of reported cases reached 6,498, 483 of which were new cases;

WHEREAS, reports also show that nearly six new cases are reported daily, compared to only one case a day in 2009;

WHEREAS, these numbers should be compared to the reported 25 percent drop in HIV/AIDS cases in 33 countries between 2001 and 2009, as reported in the 2010 United Nations' AIDS Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic;

WHEREAS, although reports show that different governments in the Asia and the Pacific region have made steady progress in mitigating its spread ever since the first case of HIV was reported 30 years ago, AIDS incidence increases of more than 25 percent were reported in seven countries, including the Philippines;

WHEREAS, the DOH noted that HIV is usually transmitted among men who have sex with men (MSM), and that in May 2011, 83 percent of new HIV cases occurred in the MSM sector;

WHEREAS, government programs that combat the spread of HIV/AIDS have been in place for two decades, and yet the rise in the number of cases in the country could mean a confluence of inefficiencies both on the part of legislation and the health department, necessitating measures and renewed commitment to curb these rising numbers;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the Senate committee on health to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation on the reports that there could be a five-fold increase from the current count of less than 10,000 cases of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) infections in the country by 2015.

Adopted,

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MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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