



**SENATE**  
P.S. Res. No. 820

'18 AUG -6 P 4 :02

---

Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

---

RECEIVED BY \_\_\_\_\_

**RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC INFORMATION AND MASS MEDIA TO FIND FEASIBLE WAYS AND MEANS TO PROVIDE STANDARDIZED SOCIAL PROTECTION MECHANISMS SUCH AS HEALTH AND ACCIDENT INSURANCE TO MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA PROFESSION, IN LIGHT OF REPORTS THAT SUCH ARE NOT BEING PROVIDED, WITH THE VIEW OF IMPLEMENTING THE CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS ON THE PROTECTION OF PRESS FREEDOM AND ON SOCIAL JUSTICE**

1 WHEREAS, consider the following provision of the 1987 Philippine  
2 Constitution:

3 "No law shall be passed abridging the freedom of speech, of  
4 expression, **or of the press**, or the right of the people peaceably to  
5 assemble and petition the government for redress of grievances"  
6 (Article III, Section 4; emphasis provided)

7 WHEREAS, the provision cited above points to the high value of preserving an  
8 independent and critical as a priority of our fundamental law;

9 WHEREAS, this assertion is supported in the case of *Chavez v. Gonzales* (G.R.  
10 No. 168338) through which the Supreme Court stated:

11 "In this jurisdiction, it is established that freedom of the press is so  
12 crucial... that any attempt to restrict it must be met with an  
13 examination so critical that only a danger that is clear and present  
14 would be allowed to curtail it."

15 WHEREAS, the Constitutional provision and its interpretation by the Supreme  
16 Court imply that the State has the duty to proactively reduce if not eradicate all  
17 threats to freedom of the press, and to media practitioners;

1 WHEREAS, members of the media presently face not only legal and political  
2 threats to their profession, but also social and economic challenges which make their  
3 line of work perilous;

4 WHEREAS, it is a known fact that many media practitioners are without health  
5 benefits or without access to social protection mechanisms;

6 WHEREAS, reports from various practitioners of the media profession state  
7 some members are only paid wages, and are not provided any additional benefits;

8 WHEREAS, various provisions of the Constitution, as well as various laws and  
9 rules and regulations such as the Labor Code of the Philippines and the PhilHealth  
10 Act provide the standard set of benefits which must be provided to members of the  
11 labor market;

12 NOW THEREFOR BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate of  
13 the Philippines, to direct the Senate Committee on Public Information and Mass  
14 Media to find feasible ways and means to provide standardized social protection  
15 mechanisms such as health and accident insurance to members of the media  
16 profession, in light of reports that such are not being provided, with the view of  
17 implementing the Constitutional provisions on the protection of press freedom and  
18 on social justice.

19 *Adopted,*  
20  
21  
22  
23

  
**GRACE POE**