

SENATE

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P.S. Res. No. 850

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Introduced by **SENATOR LEILA M. DE LIMA**

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**RESOLUTION**  
**URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE, WELFARE**  
**AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF**  
**LEGISLATION, ON THE ₱ 1.323 BILLION UNUTILIZED /**  
**UNWITHDRAWN AMOUNT OF THE PANTAWID PAMILYANG PILIPINO**  
**PROGRAM (4PS) REVEALED IN THE 2017 COMMISSION ON AUDIT**  
**(COA) REPORT**

1 WHEREAS, the 1987 Constitution, Article II, Section 9, states that “[t]he State  
2 shall promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and  
3 independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that  
4 provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of  
5 living, and an improved quality of life for all”;

6 WHEREAS, as part of the primary intervention of the Philippine Government,  
7 the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) adopted a conditional  
8 cash transfer (CCT) scheme in 2008 patterned after the CCT programs implemented  
9 in other developing countries;

10 WHEREAS, the CCT program continued to expand under the Pantawid  
11 Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) which is described as “a human development  
12 program of the national government that invests in the health and education of poor  
13 households, particularly of children aged 0-18 years old”<sup>1</sup>;

14 WHEREAS, despite the impressive macroeconomic growth rate in recent  
15 years, data from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), as of latest 2015 Family  
16 income and Expenditure Survey, revealed that 16.5% of Filipino families, or 21.6% of

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<sup>1</sup> DSWD 4Ps Briefer. Retrieved from: <https://pantawid.dswd.gov.ph/images/stories/pantawidfaq.pdf>

1 the population is considered poor. This means that 21.9 million Filipinos do not have  
2 enough income to afford basic food and non-food needs;

3 WHEREAS, the 4Ps program is part of the Government's Social Protection  
4 framework and strategy under the component of Social Welfare where this program  
5 is described as “[p]reventive and developmental interventions that seek to support  
6 the minimum basic requirements of the poor, particularly the poorest of the poor,  
7 and reduce risks associated with unemployment, resettlement, marginalization,  
8 illness, disability, old age and loss of family care.”<sup>2</sup>.

9 WHEREAS, among the roster of poverty reduction programs implemented by  
10 the government, the 4Ps program has stood out, given its clear and tightly defined set  
11 of objectives and strategies on how these objectives would be achieved, *i.e.*, to  
12 provide cash transfers that are conditional upon: (a) the child beneficiaries  
13 enrollment in school and maintain a class attendance of at least 85% per month, (b)  
14 mothers/ pregnant women availing pre- and post-natal care and be attended during  
15 childbirth by a trained health professional, (c) 0-5 year old children must receive  
16 regular preventive health check-ups and vaccines and 6-14 years old children must  
17 receive deworming pills twice a year, and (d) parent's participation in training  
18 activities or Family Development Sessions<sup>3</sup>;

19 WHEREAS, according to the Commission on Audit (COA) 2017 Annual Audit  
20 Report, the account balances of Conditional Cash Transfer / Modified Cash Transfer  
21 beneficiaries under the cash card, prepaid card and FCB mode of payment showed  
22 that ₱1.323 billion were unutilized/unwithdrawn by the supposed beneficiaries for a  
23 period ranging from 30 to 2,190 days after payout<sup>4</sup>;

24 WHEREAS, the same report also noted that the very significant and large  
25 amount of unwithdrawn grants gives “an impression that the holders of the accounts  
26 are not in dire need of assistance for the education of their children, health needs of  
27 the family, and other basic expenses of a family<sup>5</sup>” thereby necessitating a serious  
28 inquiry and validation of the situation;

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<sup>2</sup> Villar, F. (2013 October) *The Philippine Social Protection Framework and Strategy: An Overview* Department of Social Welfare and Development

<sup>4</sup> Commission on Audit (NA) *Observation and Recommendation part 2; Annual Audit Reports* pg 112

<sup>4</sup> Commission on Audit (NA) *Observation and Recommendation part 2; Annual Audit Reports* pg 112

<sup>5</sup> Commission on Audit (NA) *Observation and Recommendation part 2; Annual Audit Reports* pg 113

1           WHEREAS, it is imperative that government continue to deliver an effective  
2 social welfare program and social protection mitigating mechanisms helping the  
3 poorest and marginalized households by ensuring that the funds intended for CCT  
4 are given to beneficiaries who truly need them;

5           WHEREAS, the social development objectives of the program are meritorious  
6 and the poorest of the poor beneficiary-families must receive the grants on a timely  
7 manner and government must provide an efficient, effective and accessible system of  
8 receiving their pay-outs;

9           WHEREAS, there is also a need to ascertain the possibility of whether the  
10 failure to withdraw the cash grants can be attributed to other factors such as limited  
11 access by the beneficiaries to banking facilities;

12           WHEREAS, there is a need to determine the root cause of the unutilized and  
13 unwithdrawn grants which is significant to the ratio of a big number of household  
14 beneficiaries and ensure that this worrisome finding is addressed;

15           WHEREAS, the failure of these funds to reach qualified beneficiaries is an  
16 inefficiency that we cannot afford to have as many of our countrymen are in dire  
17 need of assistance, especially now that we are experiencing crippling levels of  
18 inflation;

19           WHEREAS, there is need to look into possible corrective measures to allow  
20 the DSWD to promptly look into possible dormant CCT accounts and implement  
21 immediate courses of action to ensure that the inefficiencies are minimized and that  
22 the funds reach the program's intended beneficiaries;

23           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED to  
24 direct the Senate Committee on Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development, as  
25 the appropriate committee given its jurisdiction, to investigate, in aid of legislation,  
26 the ₱1.323 billion unutilized/unwithdrawn cash grants of the Pantawid Pamilyang  
27 Pilipino Program revealed in the 2017 Commission on Audit (COA) Report.

*Adopted,*

  
LEILA M. DE LIMA