



SENATE

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P. S. Res. No. 967

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

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED MANDATORY PREGNANCY POLICY BEING ENFORCED BY THE PINES CITY COLLEGES IN BAGUIO CITY TO THEIR FEMALE STUDENTS, WITH THE END VIEW OF ENSURING THAT NO WOMEN ARE DISCRIMINATED AND VIOLATED DUE TO PERSONAL CONDITIONS, AND QUALITY EDUCATION IS MADE ACCESSIBLE TO EVERY FILIPINO YOUTH

1 WHEREAS, Section 11, Article II of the 1987 Constitution states that, “[t]he
2 State values the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human
3 rights.”;

4 WHEREAS, Section 14, Article II of the same provides that, “[t]he State
5 recognizes the role of women in nation-building, and shall ensure the fundamental
6 equality before the law of women and men”;

7 WHEREAS, Section 1, Article XIV of the same posits “[t]he State shall protect
8 the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps
9 to make such education accessible to all”;

10 WHEREAS, Section 13 (c) of Republic Act no. 9710, otherwise known as the
11 “Magna Carta of Women” states that “[n]o school shall turn out or refuse admission to
12 a female student solely on the account of her having contracted pregnancy outside of
13 marriage during her term in school.”;

14 WHEREAS, Article 26 of the Civil Code states that, “[e]very person shall respect
15 the dignity, personality, privacy and peace of mind of his neighbors and other
16 persons”;

1 WHEREAS, paragraph 4 of the same prohibits “[v]exing or humiliating another
2 on account of his religious beliefs, lowly station if life, place of birth, physical defect,
3 or other personal condition”;

4 WHEREAS, last 6 November 2018, the Pines City Colleges’ (PCC) school
5 physician released a memorandum to the deans and department heads, mandating all
6 the female students of Dentistry, Nursing, and Pharmacy be tested for pregnancy in
7 specific dates. This was intended to be in line with the school’s good intention—
8 “pursuit for education and social responsibility”¹;

9 WHEREAS, the students are even required to pay one hundred fifty pesos
10 (₱150) for the pregnancy test which would be conducted by registered medical
11 technologists from an accredited laboratory²;

12 WHEREAS, if tested positive, they would not be allowed to enroll in certain
13 subjects that PCC deemed to be dangerous for the mother and child, namely:
14 Roentgenology, Anesthesiology, Endodontics, Hospital Dentistry and Community
15 Development³;

16 WHEREAS, failure to disclose their pregnancy requires an explanatory letter
17 and are obligated to ‘drop’ their subjects and would likewise be marked as “failed”⁴;

18 WHEREAS, it was reported that if a student becomes pregnant during the
19 semester, she must immediately report her condition to the Dean and file a leave of
20 absence for the school year and return the following year on the same level⁵;

21 WHEREAS, in a statement released by the PCC, they said that it “abides by its
22 policy of pregnancy tests for female students in enrolling any subject that would
23 endanger both mother and child”. They further stated that such rule is a “protective
24 policy” that secures students while they are under the supervision of the school and
25 while they are deployed to internship programs in hospitals and to clinical practice”⁶;

¹ Malasig, Jeline. Interaksyon. *The mandatory pregnancy test policy and laws it violates*. 6 November 2018. Retrieved from <http://www.interaksyon.com/politics-issues/2018/11/06/137511/mandatory-pregnancy-tests-laws-violates/>

² *Ibid*

³ *Ibid*

⁴ *Ibid*

⁵ Galvez, Daphne. Inquirer. *Baguio college implements compulsory pregnancy tests, draws flak online*. Retrieved from <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1050980/baguio-college-implements-compulsory-pregnancy-tests-draws-flak-online>

⁶ Ramos, Christia Marie. Inquirer.net. *Baguio school sticks by its mandatory pregnancy test policy*. Retrieved from <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1051116/baguio-school-sticks-by-its-mandatory-pregnancy-test-policy>

1 WHEREAS, Commission on Human Rights (CHR) spokesperson Jacqueline de
2 Guia commented, “Women and girls should not be denied exercise and full enjoyment
3 of basic rights, they should not suffer negative consequences in educational and work
4 spaces, simply because they are pregnant.”⁷;

5 WHEREAS, the CHR also stated that not only was the pregnancy test
6 discriminatory but it also violates women’s right to “privacy and bodily autonomy”⁸;

7 WHEREAS, various groups also condemn PCC’s policy like the Gabriela
8 Women’s Party List who stated that PCC’s mandated pregnancy test policy “violates
9 the Magna Carta of Women” and “perpetuates an old view and stigma that pregnancy
10 is socially unacceptable and against the norm.”⁹;

11 WHEREAS, Kabataan Party List denounced the policy and said that “pregnancy
12 does not determine one’s capacity as a student”¹⁰;

13 WHEREAS, such discriminatory and unfair acts of depriving women and girls
14 their right to access to education due to their condition further exhibits and
15 proliferates the stigma against pregnancy and should not be tolerated and allowed;

16 WHEREAS, if allowed unchecked, such practice could become a precedent for
17 discriminatory practices against pregnant students;

18 WHEREAS, it is crucial to address this issue and urge the Senate and concerned
19 government agencies to formulate policies that would further uphold and promote
20 women’s rights;

21 WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to protect and effectively address the
22 educational needs and concerns of female students for them to attain their full
23 productive capacity and vigorously partake and contribute to our national
24 development;

⁷ Ramos, Christia Marie. Inquirer.net. *Mandatory pregnancy test in Baguio college now under probe – CHR*. Retrieved from <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1051139/chr-pines-city-college-mandatory-pregnancy-test>

⁸ Ibid

⁹ Cimat, Frank. Rappler. *Baguio school says mandatory pregnancy tests meant to protect students*. 6 November 2018. Retrieved from <https://www.rappler.com/nation/216067-baguio-school-says-mandatory-pregnancy-test-meant-to-protect-students>

¹⁰ Luci-Atienza, Charissa. Manila Bulletin. *Women, youth lawmakers welcome CHR probe on Baguio college’s mandatory pregnancy test*. Retrieved from <https://news.mb.com.ph/2018/11/07/women-youth-lawmakers-welcome-chr-probe-on-baguio-colleges-mandatory-pregnancy-test/>

1 NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to
2 direct the appropriate Senate Committee to conduct an investigation, in aid of
3 legislation, on the reported mandatory pregnancy policy being enforced by the Pines
4 City Colleges in Baguio City to their female students, with the end view of ensuring
5 that no women are discriminated and violated due to personal conditions, and quality
6 education is made accessible to every Filipino youth.

Adopted,


LEILA M. DE LIMA