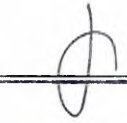


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SENATE
P.S. Res No. 85

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senators Christopher Lawrence "Bong" T. Go
and Robinhood C. Padilla

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND DEMOGRAPHY TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE PREPAREDNESS OF THE COUNTRY TO CONTAIN AND SUPPRESS MONKEYPOX WHICH HAS BEEN DECLARED BY THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION AS A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY OF INTERNATIONAL CONCERN, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF PREVENTING THE OVERBURDENING OF THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

1 WHEREAS, Article II, Section 15 of the 1987 Constitution provides that
2 "the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill
3 health consciousness among them";

4 WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 11332, otherwise known as the Mandatory
5 Reporting of Notifiable Diseases and Health Events of Public Concern Act,
6 recognizes "epidemics and other public health emergencies as threats to public
7 health and national security, which can undermine the social, economic, and
8 political functions of the State";

9 WHEREAS, according to the World Health Organization (WHO),
10 monkeypox is a viral zoonosis with symptoms such as fever, headache, muscle
11 ache, backache and rash. Monkeypox was first identified in humans in 1970 in
12 the Democratic Republic of the Congo and has spread in central and west Africa.
13 In May 2022, multiple cases of monkeypox were identified in several non-
14 endemic countries;

15 WHEREAS, according to the United States Centers for Disease Control
16 and Prevention (CDC), monkeypox can spread to anyone through close,
17 personal, often skin-to-skin contact, such as direct contact with monkeypox
18 rash, scabs, or body fluids from a person with monkeypox. Monkeypox can also

1 spread through touching objects, fabrics and surfaces that have been used by
2 someone with monkeypox, and contact with respiratory secretions;

3 WHEREAS, as of July 2022, more than 16,000 cases of monkeypox have
4 been reported across more than 70 countries. According to WHO, the number
5 of confirmed infections rose 77% from late June 2022 through early July 2022;

6 WHEREAS, on July 23, 2022, the WHO declared the monkeypox
7 outbreak a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). The
8 designation of monkeypox as a PHEIC means the WHO considers monkeypox
9 as a threat to global health, and that a coordinated international response is
10 needed;

11 WHEREAS, on July 29, 2022, the Department of Health (DOH) reported
12 that it has detected the first confirmed case of Monkeypox in the Philippines.
13 The case is a 31-year-old Filipino national who arrived from abroad last July 19,
14 2022, and had prior travel to countries with documented Monkeypox cases;

15 WHEREAS, there is a pressing need to evaluate the government's
16 preparedness to effectively suppress the spread of monkeypox in the country
17 considering that the country is still trying to recover from the adverse impacts
18 of the COVID-19 pandemic;

19 WHEREAS, it is the duty of Congress to formulate institutional policies
20 and measures to address public health emergencies;

21 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, as it hereby resolved, To direct the
22 Committee on Health and Demography to conduct an inquiry, in aid of
23 legislation, on the preparedness of the country to contain and suppress
24 monkeypox which has been declared by the World Health Organization as a
25 Public Health Emergency of International Concern, with the end in view of
26 preventing the overburdening of the health care system

Adopted,


SENATOR CHRISTOPHER LAWRENCE "BONG" T. GO


SENATOR ROBINHOOD C. PADILLA