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SENATE

P. S. Res. No. 42

RECEIVED BY



Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES IN THE SENATE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE POLICIES AND PROGRAMS IMPLEMENTED BY THE GOVERNMENT TO ADDRESS THE CONTINUING MASS EXODUS OF FILIPINO NURSES ABROAD, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF CRAFTING A COMPREHENSIVE LEGISLATIVE INTERVENTION THAT WOULD BALANCE THE ECONOMIC NEEDS OF OUR NURSES WHILE AT THE SAME TIME SECURE THE PROVISION OF QUALITY HEALTH CARE FOR OUR FILIPINO PATIENTS IN OUR COUNTRY

WHEREAS, the most popular college degree in the Philippines today is nursing given that more than 100,000 Filipino nurses have left the country to seek better opportunities. According to the Department of Health (DOH), 85 percent of the country's total number of licensed nurses are to be found in the hospitals of foreign countries;

WHEREAS, one of the reasons why the Philippines supplies 25 percent of all overseas nurses worldwide is the fact that our country produces skilled nursing graduates who can speak good english;

WHEREAS, one of the most common reasons why nurses leave the country are the low salary, lack of professional opportunities, the need for adventure, sense of obligation to family, desire to seek foreign citizenship and health reasons;

WHEREAS, the Philippines will never be able to compete with the salaries offered to nurses in the developed countries. Basic monthly pay abroad ranges from \$3,000 to \$4,000 compared to the \$169 average monthly pay in most cities here;

WHEREAS, data would indicate that the U.S. alone would need around 10,000 nurses per year, while the UK, Ireland, the Netherlands and other European countries would need another 10,000 nurses per year;

WHEREAS, in the last 10 years, the Philippines exported close to 90,000 nurses overseas. In addition, in the last four years alone, 3,500 doctors left the country to take on nursing posts abroad. As a result, we are now exporting more nurses than we are producing, resulting in substandard patient care and a real crisis in hospitals;

WHEREAS, the annual outflow of Filipino nurses is two to three times greater than the annual production of licensed nurses during the same year period. Very soon, the Philippines will be bled dry of nurses;

WHEREAS, data indicate that the ones leaving the country are the skilled and experienced nurses. Most of those who are still here are relatively unskilled and inexperienced, and this poses serious implications on the quality of health care that they provide;

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need for our government to address the exodus of nurses abroad given that the lack of skilled nurses left in the country will have serious negative implications on the quality of health care in the Philippines.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as it is hereby resolved to direct the appropriate Committees in the Senate to conduct an inquiry, *In Aid of Legislation*, into the policies and programs implemented by the government to address the continuing mass exodus of Filipino nurses abroad, with the end in view of crafting a comprehensive legislative intervention that would balance the economic needs of our nurses while at the same time secure the provision of quality health care for our Filipino patients in our country

ADOPTED,


MANGEL "LITO" M. LAPID
Senator