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SENATE

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RECEIVED BY: 

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INTRODUCED BY SENATOR PIA S. CAYETANO

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**A RESOLUTION  
DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND DEMOGRAPHY TO  
LOOK INTO, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE GENERAL STATE OF LIVER  
DISEASES IN THE PHILIPPINES.**

**Whereas**, the liver, aside from being the biggest organ in the body, is vital to our survival as it has a wide range of functions, one of which is the production of biochemicals in aid of digestion;

**Whereas**, there are different diseases that affect the liver such as Parenchymal (where the liver matrix is affected either by infection or toxic exposure), Hepatitis B (where the injury is such that the virus can stay in the liver cells for many years leading to tumor later), Cirrhosis (where injury causes scarring, hardening and shrinkage of the liver), Hepatobiliary (where a mass or tumor or stones may lodge to impinge on the ducts or tubes of the liver or gall bladder preventing the proper flow of bile causing obstruction) and Vascular (where the heart's pumping mechanism may be altered causing backflow of blood to the hepatoportal circulation or the blood vessels themselves may be obstructed by other causes);

**Whereas**, Hepatitis B is potentially fatal and is the most infectious liver disease affecting 360 million people worldwide, 281 million of whom are in Asia;<sup>1</sup>

**Whereas**, most deaths due to Hepatitis B occur in adults: almost 95% from chronic liver disease such as liver cirrhosis and hepatocellular carcinoma and the remaining 5% from fulminant hepatitis;<sup>2</sup>

**Whereas**, primary liver cancer is much more common in countries where Hepatitis B Virus carriers are prevalent, such as the Philippines and other Southeast Asian countries;<sup>3</sup>

**Whereas**, studies have shown that one out of four Asians will most likely die from either cirrhosis or liver cancer later in life;<sup>4</sup>

**Whereas**, according to the Department of Health, liver cancer is the third leading illness for both males and females thus making it a serious health problem in the Philippines;

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<sup>1</sup> Reuters News Report

<sup>2</sup> Goldstein ST, A Mathematical Model To Estimate Global Hepatitis B Disease Burden and Vaccination Impact.

<sup>3</sup> Department of Health Report

<sup>4</sup> Reuters News Report

**Whereas**, an estimated 5,249 new cases, 3,906 cases in males and 1,343 cases in females, and about 4,403 deaths are expected to occur every year due to liver diseases;<sup>5</sup>

**Whereas**, given the widespread occurrence of this highly infectious disease in the country, it is imperative for the Government to look into the current state of liver diseases in order to determine the necessity of proper measures and programs to combat this major health problem;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, that the Senate Committee on Health and Demography look into, in aid of legislation, the general state of liver diseases in the Philippines.

*Adopted,*

  
PIAS. CAYETANO

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<sup>5</sup> Department of Health Report