

**NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)**

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**SENATE
P.S. Res. No. 1088**

Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

**RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN
AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALARMING SURGE OF BOTH HEPATITIS B
AND C CASES IN THE COUNTRY**

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 15 provides: "The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them";

WHEREAS, Hepatitis is an inflammation of the liver that is caused by a variety of infectious viruses and non-infectious agents leading to a range of health problems, some of which can be fatal¹;

WHEREAS, there are five main strains of the hepatitis virus, referred to as types A, B, C, D and E. While they all cause liver disease, they differ in important ways including modes of transmission, severity of the illness, geographical distribution and prevention methods²;

WHEREAS, types B and C lead to chronic disease in hundreds of millions of people and together are the most common cause of liver cirrhosis, liver cancer and viral hepatitis-related deaths. An estimated 354 million people worldwide live with hepatitis B or C, and for most, testing and treatment remain beyond reach³;

WHEREAS, the World Health (WHO) is alarmed over the number of lives lost due to viral hepatitis infections which, in 2022 averaged around 3,500 deaths per day, according to the 2024 Global Hepatitis Report⁴;

¹ World Health Organization, https://www.who.int/health-topics/hepatitis#tab=tab_1

² Ibid

³ Ibid

⁴ PH among countries with high cases of viral hepatitis, ABS CBN News, <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/2024/4/10/ph-among-countries-with-high-cases-of-viral-hepatitis-1821>

WHEREAS, the Philippines is found to be among countries that represent two thirds of the global disease burden of both Hepatitis B and C. In 2022, the country logged 400,000 Hepatitis C infections, a disease which so far remains to be without a vaccine. On the other hand, the number of Hepatitis B infections reached 5.7 million across all ages⁵;

WHEREAS, Hepatitis B is a vaccine-preventable disease. It is among the vaccines first introduced to a child through the pentavalent vaccine, which also provides protection against influenza, diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis. Nonetheless, according to Department of Health Secretary Ted Herbosa immunization rates continue to be low;

WHEREAS, a UNICEF report identifies the Philippines belonging to the list of 20 countries with the largest numbers of zero-dose children and unfortunately we're number 4 in the world⁶;

WHEREAS, Aside from hesitancy, among the hurdles in achieving high vaccination rates is the depleting stock of pentavalent vaccines⁷;

WHEREAS, a total of 1,045 Filipinos died due to viral hepatitis, or 0.2 percent of the 664,221 deaths recorded in 2022, based on data from the Philippine Statistics Authority⁸;

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the government to assess the policies, measures and to raise awareness to the public of the serious effects of Hepatitis and to provide treatment to those affected;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Senate of the Philippines directs the proper Senate Committees to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation on the alarming surge of both Hepatitis B and C cases in the country.

Adopted,


MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY

⁵ Ibid

⁶ Ibid

⁷ Ibid

⁸ PH among 10 nations that logged two-thirds of 'hepa' cases in 2022, Inquirer news, <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1928620/ph-among-10-nations-that-logged-two-thirds-of-hepa-cases-in-2022>