

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

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24 JUL 10 P3:15

**SENATE**  
**P.S. RES. No. 1066**

RECEIVED BY: 

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Introduced by Senator Robinhood Padilla

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**RESOLUTION**

**URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO FOSTER AND STRENGTHEN  
INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION WITH FOREIGN HEALTH MINISTRIES  
AND ORGANIZATIONS WITH THE END VIEW OF HARNESSING EXPERTISE  
AND EXPANDING RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE USE OF MEDICAL  
CANNABIS AS A FORM OF TREATMENT**

1 WHEREAS, it is a policy of the State to protect and promote the right to health  
2 of the people and instill health consciousness among them;

3 WHEREAS, likewise, Section 12, Article XIII of the 1987 Constitution also  
4 provides that the State shall undertake appropriate health manpower development  
5 and research that is responsive to the country's health needs and problems;

6 WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 102 acknowledged the role of the Department  
7 of Health as our country's innovator of new strategies for responding to emerging  
8 health needs and as the lead agency in health and medical research;

9 WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 102 likewise granted the DOH the mandate to  
10 promote and maintain international linkages for technical collaboration;

11 WHEREAS, while cannabis is listed as a dangerous drug under Republic Act  
12 9165, otherwise known as the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act, which means its  
13 sale, possession, use, importation, manufacturing, and cultivation, among others, are  
14 prohibited and punishable by fine and imprisonment, the Dangerous Drugs Board  
15 (DDB) and Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved the use of cannabidiol (CBD)  
16 for patients afflicted with epilepsy, such as the oral solution Epidiolex for treatment of  
17 seizures associated with severe forms of epilepsy in 2020;

1 WHEREAS, in the past years, various countries across the globe have  
2 acknowledged the therapeutic potential of medical cannabis;

3 WHEREAS, no less than the World Health Organization (WHO) noted that  
4 several scientific studies show that cannabis consumption is useful in reducing pain  
5 and nausea, and in effectively treating symptoms of multiple sclerosis and epilepsy;

6 WHEREAS, as reported by a DDB official in 2020, the WHO has recommended  
7 to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), the DDB's counterpart in the United  
8 Nations, to allow CBD with 0.2 percent tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) to be reclassified  
9 in the 1971 United Nations Convention on Psychotropic Substances as Schedule 4, or  
10 substance with currently accepted medical use in treatment and has a low potential  
11 for abuse;

12 WHEREAS, in December 2020, the United Nations' move to reschedule  
13 cannabis, downgrading it by one level from the list of the world's most dangerous  
14 drugs, is one of the most significant changes to the body's policy on the cannabis plant  
15 in 60 years;

16 WHEREAS, seventy (70) countries around the world have legalized some form  
17 of cannabis for medical use, which is a stark increase from only 50 countries in 2019,  
18 of which twenty-six (26) of those are providing medical patients with legal access to  
19 high-THC cannabis;

20 WHEREAS, in terms of regulation, some nations developed fully regulated  
21 markets such as taxed and regulated frameworks for retail distribution of a variety of  
22 cannabis products for all adults;

23 WHEREAS, in 2020, there were an estimated 4.4 million active medical cannabis  
24 patients globally who accessed legalized, high-THC products. The number of patients  
25 in those programs is projected to grow by more than two (2) million over the next five  
26 years, to a combined 6.5 million worldwide by 2025;

27 WHEREAS, 268 million people is the global estimated number of cannabis  
28 consumers in seven (7) regions at least once in 2020, wherein Asia (45%) is recorded  
29 to be the world's largest market, followed by North America and Europe at 22% 19%,  
30 respectively;

31 WHEREAS, given the growing acceptance of cannabis as an alternative and safe  
32 option for treatment, our country's health department must exercise openness and

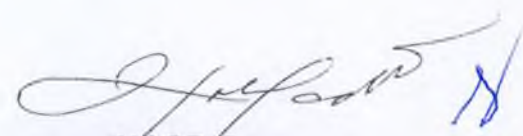
1 willingness to engage with international partners as this can be beneficial in facilitating  
2 knowledge and information sharing, and collaborative research initiatives;

3 WHEREAS, there are notable international conferences abroad, such as the  
4 Annual Cannabis Research Conference in Colorado, USA, the Annual Medical Cannabis  
5 Conference by the Medical University of South Carolina, USA, the Australian Medical  
6 Cannabis Symposium in Brisbane, Australia, and the International Medical Cannabis  
7 Conference in Tel Aviv, Israel, among others, that we can actively participate in as  
8 part of our research towards the use of medical cannabis in the country;

9 WHEREAS, the DOH's participation in similar international conferences is  
10 consistent with their mandate to adopt an evidence-based and scientific approach in  
11 the adoption of new strategies that will address emerging health needs which can  
12 include the adoption and use of medical cannabis. Now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, as it is hereby resolved, To urge the Department  
14 of Health to foster and strengthen international collaboration with foreign health  
15 ministries and organizations with the end view of harnessing expertise and expanding  
16 research and development in the use of medical cannabis as a form of treatment.

Adopted,



**ROBINHOOD PADILLA**

Senator