

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

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SENATE

P. S. Res. No. 566

Introduced by Senator Manny Villar

RESOLUTION

URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND DEMOGRAPHY AND OTHER APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE CONTINUING MASS EXODUS OF FILIPINO DOCTORS AND NURSES, WHICH POSE SERIOUS REPERCUSSIONS FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH SECTOR, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF DRAFTING RECOMMENDATIONS TO CURB, IF NOT ARREST, THE OUTFLOW OF VITAL MEDICAL PERSONNEL IN ORDER TO SAFEGUARD THE HEALTH OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization prescribes the ideal doctor-patient ratio at 1:10,000;

WHEREAS, the Philippines' doctor-patient ratio, at present, is at an alarming 1:28,000;

WHEREAS, the shortage doctors can be attributed to the mass exodus of doctors and nurses seeking better-paying jobs abroad;

WHEREAS, the lure of working abroad is compounded by the fact that medical professionals do not get adequate support from the government and many of our hospitals, especially government hospitals, lack the necessary facilities to allow the provision of proper healthcare;

WHEREAS, in a statement by the Private Hospitals Association of the Philippines (PHAP), the continued flight of doctors and nurses had led to the closure of some 1,000 private hospitals across the country from 2000-2005;

WHEREAS, 21 municipalities and 7 government hospitals in Western Samar, as well as 5 municipalities of Sulu have no doctors;

WHEREAS, by the end of 2005, nearly 120 hospitals in rural areas have closed because there is no one left to see patients;

WHEREAS, former Health Secretary, Dr. Jaime Galvez-Tan earlier warned that if this brain drain does not slow, the Philippine health care system will collapse; Now therefore be it

RESOLVED as it is hereby resolved to direct the Senate Committee on Health and Demography and other appropriate committees to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the continuing mass exodus of Filipino doctors and nurses, which pose serious repercussions for the public health sector, with the end in view of drafting recommendations to curb, if not arrest, the outflow of vital medical personnel in order to safeguard the health of the general public.

Adopted,



MANNY VILLAR