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SENATE
P.S. Resolution No. 168

RECEIVED BY:

Introduced by: Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" A. Aquino IV

A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON DRUG EDUCATION AND PREVENTION STRATEGIES IN SCHOOLS AND ALTERNATIVE LEARNING SYSTEMS, WITH THE END VIEW OF SECURING THE HEALTH, WELL-BEING AND FUTURE OF THE FILIPINO YOUTH

WHEREAS, the Philippine Constitution states that, "The maintenance of peace and order, the protection of life, liberty, and property, and the promotion of the general welfare are essential for the enjoyment by all the people of the blessings of democracy;"

WHEREAS, Article 2, Section 13 of the Philippine Constitution provides that, "The State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being;"

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

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 9165, or "The Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002," directs the State to safeguard the well-being of its citizenry, particularly the youth, from the harmful effects of dangerous drugs on their physical and mental well-being. Instruction on drug abuse prevention and control shall be integrated in the elementary, secondary and tertiary curricula of all public and private schools, whether general, technical, vocational or agro-industrial as well as in non-formal, informal and indigenous learning systems;

WHEREAS, it is stated further that all elementary, secondary and tertiary schools' student councils and campus organizations shall include in their activities a program for the prevention of and deterrence in the use of dangerous drugs, and referral for treatment and rehabilitation of students for drug dependence;

WHEREAS, based on reports from drug treatment and rehabilitation facilities to the Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB) in 2014, close to half (47.79%) of center clients first

tried using drugs at the age of 15 – 19 years old. The youngest reported case involved a 9 year-old patient;¹

WHEREAS, the 2014 DDB statistical analysis also revealed that based on educational attainment, thirty percent (29.83%) of rehabilitation center clients reached the college level, twenty-five percent (24.68%) reached high school, and sixteen percent (15.73%) finished high school. Moreover, eight percent (7.65%) of clients were out-of-school youth, and four percent (4.12%) were students;²

WHEREAS, party drugs have been reported to be making rounds in the bars, nightclubs, concerts and music festivals attended by the youth. Last May 21, 2016, five persons died during a major concert and rave party allegedly from complications caused by drug overdose;³

WHEREAS, there have been various reports over the past few years pointing to the accessibility and peddling of illegal drugs within or in the vicinity of some school campuses. Most recently, faculty and students in a local college in North Cotabato sought help from government to end the alleged wanton circulation of prohibited substances in their school, according to news reports;⁴

WHEREAS, the Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB) has identified preventive education programs as a key component of its drug demand reduction strategy, “to discourage users and impending abusers from experimenting with illicit substances or continuing to abuse them.”⁵ As part of its mandate, the DDB undertakes a range of educational programs designed to address the needs of every sector of society, including the youth their educators;⁶

WHEREAS, all schools and alternative learning systems have a significant role to play in addressing illegal drug use and abuse among Filipino children and the youth through drug education and other prevention programs;

WHEREAS, there is a need for our schools and learning institutions to apply evidence-based approaches in the development and implementation of drug education and prevention programs for Filipino children and the youth;

WHEREAS, there have been recent proposals in line with the President’s War on Drugs to impose mandatory drug testing in schools as a prevention measure. The Department of Education has rejected the proposal, qualifying that only random testing may be considered and with the consent of parents.⁷ The Commission on Higher

¹ <http://www.ddb.gov.ph/research-statistics/statistics/45-research-and-statistics/246-2014-statistics>

² <http://www.ddb.gov.ph/research-statistics/statistics/45-research-and-statistics/246-2014-statistics>

³ <http://www.rappler.com/newsbreak/in-depth/134926-philippines-party-scene-drug-abuse>

⁴ <http://www.philstar.com/nation/2016/08/09/1611708/north-cotabato-helps-investigate-illegal-drugs-school>

⁵ <http://www.ddb.gov.ph/preventive-education>

⁶ <http://www.ddb.gov.ph/about-ddb/strategies>

⁷ <http://news.abs-cbn.com/news/07/18/16/drug-tests-in-schools-parents-must-give-consent-deped>

Education (CHED), on the otherhand, is planning to make drug testing mandatory for all incoming college students;⁸

WHEREAS, a 2009 meta-analysis of twenty controlled studies by statisticians, Wei Pan, then at the University of Cincinnati, and Haiyan Ban, of the University of Central Florida, showed that "Just Say No" campaigns are ineffective in preventing drug abuse among the youth;⁹

WHEREAS, according to a report by the Drug Policy Alliance, the most effective preventive measure against drug abuse among the youth are after-school programs and the adoption of a drug education framework;¹⁰

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate of the Philippines to direct the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on drug education and prevention programs in schools and alternative learning systems, with the end view of securing the health, well-being and future of the Filipino youth.

Adopted,



⁸ <http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/579874/news/nation/ched-exec-pushes-for-mandatory-drug-tests-for-college-admissions>

⁹ Pan, W. & Ban, H. (2009 Jan). A Multivariate Approach to a Meta-Analytic Review of the Effectiveness of the D.A.R.E Program. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*. 6(1): 267-277. Doi: 10.3390/ijerph6010267.

¹⁰ <https://www.drugpolicy.org/docUploads/FourPillarsMethamphetamine.pdf>, p. 11 – 13