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SENATE  
P.S. Res. **159**

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Villar

RESOLUTION

URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND DEMOGRAPHY TO CONDUCT A COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ANENT THE FEASIBILITY OF MASSIVE GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR CELL STEM RESEARCH, INTERVENTION AND APPLICATION WITH THE END OBJECTIVE OF MAKING HEALTH POLICIES RESPONSIVE TO THE CITIZENS' NEEDS, PROBLEMS AND ACCESSIBILITY

Whereas, the 1987 Philippine Constitution is sated with landmark provisions geared towards promoting people's right to life and health, viz:

1. Article II, Section 15, "[t]he State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them";
2. Article XIII, Section 12, "[t]he state shall establish and maintain an effective food and drug regulatory system and undertake appropriate health manpower development and research responsive to the country's health needs and problems";
3. Article XIV, Section 10, "[s]cience and technology are essential for national development and progress. The State shall give priority to research and development, invention, innovation and their utilization";
4. Article II, Section 12, "[i]t shall equally protect the life of the mother and the life of unborn from conception.

Whereas, stem cell therapy and treatments refer to medical processes involving stem cells---a primary cell in the human body from which all other tissues "stem" from and which programmed in the laboratory to potentially become any other kind of cell; as unspecialized cells, it can self-renew indefinitely and also differentiate into more mature cells with specialized functions and which could be used to repair damaged tissues and replace diseased organs;

Whereas, in the last two years, the Philippines has become a hub for medical tourism and that an increasing number of foreigners come in solely for stem cell therapy that some Philippine hospitals and medical institutions offer at a cheaper cost than when done abroad;

Whereas, in the United States of America, stem cell research has fully aided health development and generated jobs and that in California alone, the biomedical industry is a critical component of the state's economy providing employment in over 2,500 companies to over 225,000 Californians, and pays \$12.8 billion in wages and salaries, investing more than \$2.1 billion in research, and reports nearly \$7.8 billion in worldwide revenue;

Whereas, the opportunities offered by stem cell treatments are endless as it is type of regenerative medicine introducing new cells into damaged tissue in order to treat a disease or injury Prometheus like;

Whereas, tracing its genesis from the findings of Canadian scientists Ernest A. McCulloch and James E. Till in the 1960s, thousands of patients around the world have already benefitted from using stem cell delivered safely by skilled and certified physicians;

Whereas, diseases once considered incurable are responding well to stem cell treatment and are restoring hope to patients who thought they had lost their lives forever;

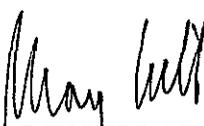
Whereas, though the benefits of stem cell treatment are a major breakthrough in the field of biotechnology, the cost far outweighs its benefits;

Whereas, in the Philippines, it is very expensive and only few physicians are licensed to do the procedure;

Whereas, there is an urgent need for government funding through appropriation cell stem researches and studies and medical learning and application: Now therefore be it

RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND DEMOGRAPHY TO CONDUCT A COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ANENT THE FEASIBILITY OF MASSIVE GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR CELL STEM RESEARCH, INTERVENTION AND APPLICATION WITH THE END OBJECTIVE OF MAKING HEALTH POLICIES RESPONSIVE TO THE CITIZENS' NEEDS, PROBLEMS AND ACCESSIBILITY.

Adopted,

  
MANNY VILLAR