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SENATE

P. S. Res. No. **181**

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INTRODUCED BY SENATOR VILLAR

RESOLUTION

URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND DEMOGRAPHY TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ANTI-BLINDNESS PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF ADOPTING A NATIONAL FRAMEWORK TO ADDRESS PREVENTABLE BLINDNESS AND TO REINFORCE EYE HEALTH CARE IN THE COUNTRY

Whereas, eyes are considered to be the most important of the human sense organs as it is the sense of sight that enable us to maintain contact with the outer world and in fact, blindness or loss of vision is perhaps the greatest curse in one's life;

Whereas, 37 million people worldwide are blind and 124 million have low vision;

Whereas, blindness affects about 1.4 million children globally;

Whereas, in developing countries like the Philippines, 60% of children will die within one year of becoming blind and the remainder will, on average, spend 40 years without sight;

Whereas, about a hundred Filipino children go blind every week mostly due to poor nutrition, measles, ophthalmia neonatorum (infection of the eye in newborns), cataract (clouding of the lens in the eye), glaucoma and retinopathy (retinal damage) of prematurity/premature birth which are all preventable if treated in time;

Whereas, nearly 500,000 Filipinos are blind, and 62% of these cases are due to cataracts, the leading cause of reversible blindness worldwide;

Whereas, the World Health Organization (WHO) launched a global initiative in 1999 called Vision 2020: The Right to Sight, with the objective of eliminating avoidable blindness by the year 2020;


Whereas, the Philippines is a signatory to Vision 2020, along with more than 40 other countries;

Whereas, there is need to address blindness in the earliest stages of life to reduce the cases of blindness in the country, especially among children;

Whereas, . Thus it is the duty and responsibility of all people to take care of their eyes and that eye health care is very important and there is a need to take certain steps to ensure that: Now therefore be it

RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to urge the Senate Committee on Health and Demography to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the anti-blindness program of the Department of Health and other government agencies with the objective of adopting a national framework to address preventable blindness and to reinforce eye health care in the country.

Adopted,


MANNY VILLAR