

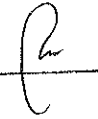
FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
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Senate
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S E N A T E

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INTRODUCED BY SENATOR VILLAR

RESOLUTION

**URGING THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND DEMOGRAPHY AND OTHER
APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF
LEGISLATION, ON WAYS TO INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS ABOUT LUNG
CANCER AND PROVIDE AND ENHANCE THE SCREENING, STANDARD OF CARE,
PREVENTION AND TREATMENT TO THOSE AFFLICTED OF THE SAME**

Whereas, Section 15 of Article II of the 1987 Constitution provides that:

“The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people
and instill health consciousness among them”;

Whereas, lung cancer is the world’s deadliest of all types of cancer¹;

Whereas, there are about 1.18 million deaths caused by lung cancer annually, which if
broken down would be 3,000 deaths daily or two deaths every minute²;

Whereas, lung cancer mortality rate is higher than that of breast, kidney, liver, colon, skin
and prostate cancer combined;

Whereas, there is only 15% five-year survival rates for lung cancer which is very poor
compared to breast cancer which is 89%³;

Whereas, according to Globocan statistics of 2008, even if there is an increase of breast
cancer incidence, 80% of those diagnosed with lung cancer die compared to 35% mortality in those
afflicted with breast cancer;

Whereas, also in 2008, the Philippines ranked 9th in the world for adult male smokers and
16th for adult female smokers⁴;

Whereas, in 2003, the Philippines ranked high among countries with the most tobacco users
with Filipino girls occupying 2nd place and Filipino boys in 4th place;

Whereas, young smokers are caused because cigarettes are very accessible;

Whereas, the cheapest cigarettes and the most expensive medicines are found in the
Philippines as well as the lack of implementation of laws regulating or banning smoking⁵;

¹ Philippine Star, December 13, 2010

² *Ibid.*

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ World Lung Foundation and American Cancer Society, 2008

Whereas, the two main types of lung cancer are non-small cell lung cancer and small cell lung cancer, the latter being the highly aggressive form of lung cancer predominantly caused by smoking;

Whereas, non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) is the most common lung cancer form afflicting about 85% of all patients diagnosed with different causes including smoking;

Whereas, in most cases, lung cancer does not show symptoms, therefore, it may be incurable when diagnosed and detected at an advanced stage;


Whereas, early symptoms of lung cancer could be:

- a.) Persistent cough;
- b.) A change in persistent cough;
- c.) Coughing out phlegm or sputum with presence of blood;
- d.) Aches or pains when breathing or coughing;
- e.) Loss of appetite;
- f.) Fatigue;
- g.) Loss of weight⁶;

Whereas, the State should protect its citizens and their families from this dreaded disease by undertaking an aggressive anti-smoking campaign awareness program for cancer prevention and supporting lung cancer campaigns so that early diagnosis and treatment can be attained;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to urge the Committee on Health and Demography and other appropriate Committees to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on ways to increase public awareness about lung cancer and provide and enhance the screening, standard of care, prevention and treatment to those afflicted of the same.

Adopted,


MANNY VILLAR
Senator

⁵ Dr. Donna Tubera, Philippine Daily Inquirer, February 10, 2010

⁶ Dr. Ramon Dennis M. Tudtud, President, Philippine Society of Medical Oncology (PSMO)