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SENATE

P.S. Resolution No. 371

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INTRODUCED BY SENATOR VILLAR

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RESOLUTION

**DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND DEMOGRAPHY  
TO CONDUCT A STUDY AND ASSESSMENT, IN AID OF LEGISLATION,  
ANENT THE EFFECTIVENESS OF EXISTING STATUTES AND PROGRAMS  
ON HIV-AIDS PREVENTION AND CONTROL FOR THE PURPOSE OF  
HALTING ITS CONTINUOUS SPREAD AND TIGHTENING LAWS ON THE  
MATTER**

*WHEREAS*, Section 15, Article II of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that: *"The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them."*;

*WHEREAS*, Pursuant to this mandate Congress enacted Republic Act 8504 otherwise known as the *"Philippines AIDS Prevention and Control Act of 1998"* recognizing Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome(AIDS) as a disease with no territorial, social and economic boundaries and made it the Policy of the State to *"promote public awareness about the causes modes of transmission, consequences, means of prevention and control of HIV/AIDS through a comprehensive nationwide, educational and information campaign organized and conducted by the State"*;

*WHEREAS*, the rise of HIV infection in the Philippines is attested by the report of the Department of Health which has recorded its highest number of HIV cases reported in a month with 174 new cases in December 2010;<sup>1</sup>

*WHEREAS*, this is significantly higher than in 2009 when then Health Sec. Ezperanza Cabral pointed out that *"At the rate we are going, in three years we are going to have more than 30,000 people with HIV/AIDS in the Philippines"*;<sup>2</sup>

*WHEREAS*, it is alarming that the number of new cases occur within the 20-29 year age group mostly young urban professionals representing 62 percent of the reported cases;<sup>3</sup>

*WHEREAS*, although HIV and AIDS are referred to and generally perceived as a sexually transmitted disease, the use of needles in drug abuse cases spread the virus faster than in sexual contact;<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Crisostomo/Diaz, *HIV/AIDS cases in Phil on the rise*, (Philippine Star, Feb. 7, 2011), p.20

<sup>2</sup> As cited in: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2010/03/04/us-philippines-hiv-idUSTRE62335B20100304> 02/07/2011 2:00 PM

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.* 1

<sup>4</sup> HIV/AIDS Statistics in the Philippines; National Epidemiology Center, as cited in <http://www.scribd.com/doc/23928354/HIV-AIDS-Statistics-in-the-Philippines> 02/07/2011 2:30 PM

*WHEREAS*, In 2009, the cases of HIV transferred through the use of contaminated needles shared by four to six individual drug users has drawn the attention of the Department of Health, making it a sector to watch out for in the fight against the spread of the disease;<sup>5</sup>

*WHEREAS*, according to the National AIDS Council, if not prevented through the placing of effective strategies to check the spread of the disease the cases in the country can reach as high as 46,000 by 2015;<sup>6</sup>

*WHEREAS*, in view of the foregoing, there is therefore a need to review the "*AIDS Prevention and Control Law of 1998*" and institute new means in order to prevent further infections and combat the spread of the disease;

*NOW, WHEREFORE, BE IT RESOVED*, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate of the Philippines to direct the Senate Committee on Health and Demography to conduct a study and assessment, in aid of legislation, anent the effectiveness of existing statutes and programs on HIV-AIDS prevention and control for the purpose of halting its continuous spread and tightening laws on the matter.

Adopted,



MANNY VILLAR

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<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.* 1

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.* 1