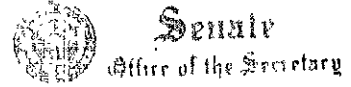


FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )



'11 MAY 23 P4:31

S E N A T E

RECEIVED BY:

P. S. Res. No. 486

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR VILLAR

**RESOLUTION**

**URGING THE COMMITTEES ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND YOUTH, WOMEN AND FAMILY RELATIONS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE EMERGING AND INCREASING INCIDENTS OF IDENTITY THEFT TARGETING CHILDREN IN THE PHILIPPINES WITH THE INTENTION OF TIGHTENING AND STRENGTHENING EXISTING STATUTES ON CYBERCRIMES VIS-A-VIS PROTECTION OF CHILDREN**

*Whereas*, Section 11 Article II of the 1987 Constitution states that, “The State values the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human rights”;

*Whereas*, there are 29,700,000 internet users in the Philippines as of June 2009<sup>1</sup>;

*Whereas*, as of November 2010, the Philippines boasted of 18.12 million Facebook users, a popular social networking site, representing 61.02 percent of the country’s online population and 18.4 percent of the total population, hiking the country’s ranking from eighth place to sixth on its list of countries with the largest numbers of Facebook users<sup>2</sup>;

*Whereas*, many active Facebook users take risks that can lead to burglaries, identity theft, phishing, stalking and other internet fraud;

*Whereas*, Identity Theft is a crime in which an impostor obtains key pieces of personal identifying information (PII) such as Social Security numbers and driver’s license numbers and uses them for their own personal gain and can start with lost or stolen wallets, pilfered mail, a data breach, computer virus, phishing, a scam, or paper documents disposed in the garbage<sup>3</sup>;

*Whereas*, Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr and other social networking sites have millions of users who are underage and may be vulnerable to abuse;

*Whereas*, of the 20 million minors who actively used Facebook in the past year, 7.5 million of them were younger than 13<sup>4</sup>;

*Whereas*, child identity theft occurs when a minor’s Social Security number is used by another person for the imposter’s personal gain<sup>5</sup>;

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.internetworldstats.com/asia/ph.htm>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www8.gmanews.tv/story/205249/philippines-surpasses-18-million-facebook-users>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.idtheftcenter.org/>

<sup>4</sup> Consumer Reports’ latest State of the Net survey, June 2011

*Whereas*, the Social Security numbers of children are valued because they do not have any information associated with them so that the imposters can establish lines of credit, obtain driver's licenses, or even buy a house using a child's identity;


*Whereas*, this fraud can go undetected for years, as most children don't discover the problem until years later;

*Whereas*, child identity theft is fairly common and the problem is growing as studies found that of 40,000 children 10.2% were victims of identity theft<sup>6</sup>;

*Whereas*, the State, consistent with its policy of protecting children and the people in general, must provide mechanisms, as they utilize social networking sites, to guard their personal information and to prevent it from being misused by unscrupulous individuals;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, as it is hereby resolved, to urge the Committees on Science and Technology and Youth, Women and Family Relations to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the emerging and increasing incidents of identity theft targeting children in the Philippines with the intention of tightening and strengthening existing statutes on cybercrimes vis-a-vis protection of children.

Adopted,

  
MANNY VILLAR  
Senator

---

<sup>5</sup> [http://www.idtheftcenter.org/artman2/publish/v\\_fact\\_sheets/Fact\\_Sheet\\_120.shtml](http://www.idtheftcenter.org/artman2/publish/v_fact_sheets/Fact_Sheet_120.shtml)

<sup>6</sup> as reported by Richard Power of the Carnegie Mellon Cylab with data supplied by AllClear ID