

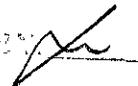
FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



11 SEP 14 P1:40

SENATE

P. S. Res. No. 597

RECEIVED 

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR VILLAR

RESOLUTION
URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH, WOMEN AND FAMILY
RELATIONS, TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE
REPORTED INCREASE OF SUICIDE DEATHS IN RECENT YEARS,
PARTICULARLY AMONG MALES, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF DEVELOPING A
SUICIDE PREVENTION PROGRAM

Whereas, World Suicide Prevention Day is observed on September 10th of each year to raise awareness around the globe that suicide can be prevented;

Whereas, the World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that about one million people, or one death every 40 seconds, die by suicide around the world annually;

Whereas, in the last 45 years, suicide rates have increased by 60 percent worldwide;

Whereas, although the Philippines has a relatively low suicide rate of 2.1 per 100,000 people per year¹, a 2011 study² by Maria Theresa Renadiel and David Gunnell of the School of Social and Community Medicine, University of Bristol and May Antonette Lebanan-Dalida of the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics of UP Manila revealed that “there is likely to be under-reporting because of its non-acceptance by the Catholic Church and the associated stigma to the family”;

Whereas, the latest Philippine Health Statistics yearbook estimates almost 1,500 reported deaths from suicides, males outnumbering females by a ratio of 3:1;³

Whereas, based on Department of Health statistics, suicide deaths are found in the 10-14 age-group, with the rates jumping in the 15-19 and 20-24 age groups, which tells us that adolescents and young adults are particularly vulnerable;

Whereas, there is a need to develop policy frameworks for national suicide prevention strategies and establish counseling and support groups that can effectively address depression and suicidal behaviors: Now therefore be it

¹ 1993 data, cited by WHO in its 2011 report of worldwide suicide rates [http://www.who.int/mental_health/prevention/suicide_rates/en/]

² “Suicide in the Philippines: time trend analysis and literature review” (published on July 6, 2011 in www.biomedcentral.com) used data from the Philippine Health Statistics of the Department of Health between 1974 and 2005

³ “Preventing suicides”, Michael L. Tan, September 8, 2011, [<http://opinion.inquirer.net/11523/preventing-suicides>]

RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to urge the Senate Committee on Youth, Women and Family Relations, to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the reported increase of suicide deaths in recent years, particularly among males, with the end in view of developing a suicide prevention program.

Adopted,


MANNY VILLAR
Senator