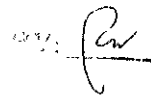


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SENATE

OFFICE

BY: 

P.S. Resolution No. 722

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR VILLAR

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH, WOMEN AND FAMILY RELATIONS TO CONDUCT A STUDY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7610 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "SPECIAL PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AGAINST ABUSE, EXPLOITATION AND DISCRIMINATION ACT" WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF FORMULATING AN ANTI-CHILD ABUSE POLICY TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE FILIPINO AND ASIAN CULTURAL MILIEU.

Whereas, Section 11 and 13 of Article II of the 1987 Constitution declares it the policy of the State to value the dignity of every human person and guarantee full respect for human rights; and, recognize the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being;

Whereas, in pursuance of the aforementioned policies, Republic Act No. 7610 otherwise known as the "**Special Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act**" expressly provided that, to wit:

"Section 2. Declaration of State Policy and Principles. – *It is hereby declared to be the policy of the State to provide special protection to children from all forms of abuse, neglect, cruelty exploitation and discrimination and other conditions, prejudicial their development; provide sanctions for their commission and carry out a program for prevention and deterrence of and crisis intervention in situations of child abuse, exploitation and discrimination. The State shall intervene on behalf of the child when the parent, guardian, teacher or person having care or custody of the child fails or is unable to protect the child against abuse, exploitation and discrimination or when such acts against the child are committed by the said parent, guardian, teacher or person having care and custody of the same.*

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Every effort shall be exerted to promote the welfare of children and enhance their opportunities for a useful and happy life.”;

Whereas, child abuse is a state of emotional, physical, economic and sexual maltreatment meted out to a person below the age of eighteen and is a globally prevalent phenomenon;¹

Whereas, prevalent is the deep misunderstanding in the way Westerners define child abuse and the way Asians understand it; the main divide is cultural rather than legal;²

Whereas, there is still a culture of silence which prevents victims to come forward, thus the need for a clear policy to educate the public on child abuse and to encourage the denunciation of such practices;

Whereas, state policy must make careful consideration of the cultural values and use it to foster greater transparency and cooperation to protect the rights of the young;

Whereas, glaring is this cultural issue in the statement issued by the Vatican when one of its child abuse prosecutors warned that the Catholic Church in Asia is falling behind in the fight against Pedophilia due to cultural differences over what constitutes child abuse;³

Whereas, a new perspective must be adopted in order to develop a comprehensive understanding of the phenomenon of child abuse within the Filipino cultural milieu with a view to formulating appropriate policies and programs to prevent child abuse;

Whereas, it is urged that the legislature consider a review of the current child abuse policies and open the doors to new and innovative ways of combating child abuse and related issues through community based program interventions and other educational programs.

NOW, WHEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate of the Philippines the Senate Committee on Youth, Women and Family Relations to conduct a study, in aid of legislation on the implementation of Republic Act No. 7610 otherwise known as the “*Special Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act*” with the objective of formulating an anti-child abuse policy taking into consideration the Filipino and Asian cultural Milieu.

Adopted,


MANNY VILLAR

¹ As cited in: <http://www.africaw.com/forum/t2/child-abuse-in-asia-child-slavery-in-asia-t2638/> Feb 13, 2012 1:00 PM

² As cited in: <http://www.colorado.edu/journals/standards/V6N1/EDUCATION/ktran.html> Feb 13, 2012 2:00 PM

³ As cited in: <http://www.interaksyon.com/article/24064/vatican-prosecutor-warns-bishops-over-child-abuse-cover-up> Feb. 15, 2012 3:00 PM