

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

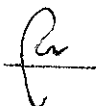


Senate  
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE

P.S. RES. NO. 516

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INTRODUCED BY SENATOR EDGARDO J. ANGARA

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**A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT A REVIEW, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, OF THE COUNTRY'S EXISTING ADOPTION LAWS TO STREAMLINE THE ADOPTION PROCESS FOR THE WELFARE OF CHILDREN UP FOR ADOPTION AND THE ADOPTING PARENTS**

**Whereas**, children are one of the most important assets of a country therefore there is a need to ensure that they live a happy and fulfilling life with the love and support of a family;

**Whereas**, the Philippines is a signatory to the "Hague Convention on the Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Inter-Country Adoption" an international treaty which ensures the best interests of the child, respects his/her fundamental rights and prevents the abduction, the sale of, or traffic in children during the process of inter-country adoption;

**Whereas**, the country has existing adoption laws in place namely Republic Act No. 8552, "The Domestic Adoption Act of 1998", Republic Act No. 8043, "An Act Establishing the Rules to Govern Inter-Country Adoption of Filipino Children and for Other Purposes" and Republic Act No. 9523, "An Act Requiring Certification of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) to Declare a Child Legally Available for Adoption";

**Whereas**, the DSWD has put forth a number of administrative orders to expedite the adoption process and ensure the well-being and safety of children up for adoption;

**Whereas**, the DSWD issued in 2004 Memorandum Circular No. 22, otherwise known as the "Policy on De-Institutionalizing of Children" which provides a framework for effecting de-institutionalization of children by providing alternative family care and other services as a facilitating scheme in the care, recovery, rehabilitation and development of children;

**Whereas**, despite these existing laws, measures and guidelines on adoption already in place, there are still significant delays in the adoption process thereby prolonging the stay of children in institutions;

**Whereas**, there is a need to review the existing adoption laws, measures and guidelines to address loopholes in these laws and expedite the adoption process without prejudice to the welfare and safety of the children;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED,**  
to direct appropriate committee to conduct a review, in aid of legislation, of the country's  
existing adoption laws with the aim of expediting the adoption process while at the same  
time ensuring the welfare of children up for adoption.

*Adopted,*

  
**EDGARDO J. ANGARA**