

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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SENATE

Senate Resolution No. 832

Introduced by Senator Loren Legarda

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND ILLEGAL DRUGS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE NECESSITY OF PASSING A LAW TO AMEND R.A. 8049 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ANTI-HAZING LAW WITH THE END IN VIEW OF PREVENTING THE PERSISTENT INCIDENCE OF DEATHS AS WELL AS PHYSICAL AND MENTAL SUFFERING TO STUDENT VICTIMS AS A CONSEQUENCE OF HAZING, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

WHEREAS, seventeen years have passed since Republic Act 8049 otherwise known as the Anti-Hazing law was enacted in 1995, but the incidence of deaths, and severe physical as well as mental injuries to student recruits of fraternities and sororities continue to happen;

WHEREAS, since the enactment of the anti-hazing law, the statistics of death and injury to student recruits continue to rise; in 2012 alone, the untimely deaths of San Beda College of Law students Marvin Reglos and recently, Andrei Marcos prove that hazing remains a perennial problem in the country;

WHEREAS, Section 2 of RA 8049 states that "No hazing or initiation rites in any form or manner by a fraternity, sorority or organization shall be allowed without prior written notice to the school authorities or head of organization seven (7) days before the conduct of such initiation. The written notice shall indicate the period of the initiation activities which shall not exceed three (3) days, shall include the names of those to be subjected to such activities, and shall further contain an undertaking that no physical violence be employed by anybody during such initiation rites";

WHEREAS, Section 3 of the same law provides that "The head of the school or organization or their representatives must assign at least two (2) representatives of the school or organization, as the case may be, to be present during initiation. It is the duty of such representative to see to it that no physical harm of any kind shall be inflicted upon a recruit, neophyte or applicant";

WHEREAS, Section 4 further provides that "If the person subjected to hazing or other forms of initiation rites suffers any physical injury or dies as a result thereof, the officers

and members of the fraternity, sorority or organization who actually participated in the infliction of physical harm shall be liable as principals”;

WHEREAS, these explicit pronouncements of the existing law clearly impose a policy of regulation rather than prohibition on hazing and other initiation rites;

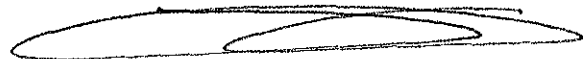
WHEREAS, these deaths and injuries have to stop; there is a need to review the law if only to save the lives and limbs of hazing victims and for heightened vigilance among administrators of universities and colleges, in view of the responsibility imposed on them by the Anti-Hazing law;

WHEREAS, the Commission on Higher Education should be at the forefront of ensuring the compliance of school authorities in preventing deaths and injuries of students caused by initiation rites;

WHEREAS, there is a need to revisit the current policy of regulation under the Anti-Hazing law given its failure to deter hazing violence and the apparent audacity by which these fraternities and sororities and their officers and members perpetrate their evil design without regard to the existing mandate of the law.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to direct the Committee on Justice and Human Rights and the Committee on Public Order and Illegal Drugs to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the necessity of passing a law to amend R.A. 8049 otherwise known as the Anti-hazing Law with the end in view of preventing the persistent incidence of deaths as well as physical and mental suffering to student victims as a consequence of hazing, and for other purposes.

Adopted,



LOREN LEGARDA