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SENATE
P. S. Res. No. 292

RECEIVED BY:

Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

RESOLUTION

**DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY,
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORT THAT THERE ARE 550 BLOOD
BAGS THAT TESTED POSITIVE FOR HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS**

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 15 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides, "The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them";

WHEREAS, the Department of Health's HIV/AIDS ART Registry of the Philippines (HARP) reported that a total of 550 blood bags (units) collected in 2016 were confirmed by the Research Institute for Topical Medicine (RITM) to be tainted with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV);¹

WHEREAS, the HARP report added that the 2016 figure is higher than in 2015, when only 456 blood units were discarded for being tainted with HIV;²

WHEREAS, according to the Department of Health these HIV positive blood units were discarded after initial screening at the blood banks and immediately sent to RITM for confirmation;³

WHEREAS, HIV is a retrovirus that infects cells of the immune system, destroying or impairing their function which results in progressive deterioration of the immune system, leading to "immune deficiency". The immune system is considered deficient when it can no longer fight infections and diseases;⁴

WHEREAS, HIV can be transmitted through unprotected sexual intercourse (vaginal or anal), oral sex with an infected person, transfusion of contaminated blood, the sharing of contaminated needles, syringes, surgical equipment or other sharp instruments and between a mother and her infant during pregnancy, childbirth and breastfeeding;⁵

¹ Philippine Star Website, <http://www.philstar.com/headlines/2017/02/11/1671110/doh-hiv-positive-blood-units-increased-2016>

² Manila Bulletin Website, <http://news.mb.com.ph/2017/02/03/doh-says-550-blood-units-found-positive-for-hiv-last-year/>

³ Ibid

⁴ World Health Organization Website, <http://www.who.int/features/qa/71/en/>

⁵ Ibid

WHEREAS, the Department of Health confirmed that since January 1984 there had been twenty (20) people accidentally infected by HIV due to blood transfusion. Two (2) of these incidents occurred in 2011. The donors were unaware that they were HIV-positive;⁶

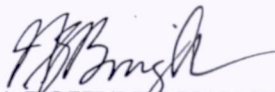
WHEREAS, in 2016 it was reported that HIV cases in the Philippines has reached 32,647 from January 1984 to March 2016 and this number coincides with 25 newly diagnosed HIV incidents being documented per day;⁷

WHEREAS, the increasing number of blood units tainted with HIV needs to be addressed in order to prevent the widespread prevalence of HIV and AIDS in the country;

WHEREAS, considering the foregoing, there is a need for intensive effort from all fronts to immediately spread awareness regarding HIV and AIDS testing and treatment;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, as it is hereby resolved to direct the proper Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the report that there are 550 blood bags that tested positive for Human Immunodeficiency Virus.

Adopted,



MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY
Senator

⁶ GMA News Website, <http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/598678/news/nation/hiv-tainted-blood-bags-never-used-doh-assures-public>

⁷ Department of Health Website, http://www.doh.gov.ph/sites/default/files/statistics/EB_HIV_Mar-AIDSreg2016.pdf