



SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION )

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SENATE  
P.S.R NO. 347

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INTRODUCED BY: SEN. ANA THERESIA HONTIVEROS-BARAQUEL

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**RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC ORDER AND HEALTH TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE KILLING OF DR. SHAHID JAJA SINOLINDING WITH THE END VIEW OF ENACTING MEASURES TO ENSURE THE SAFETY AND WELL-BEING OF PHYSICIANS AND OTHER HEALTH WORKERS SERVING IN THE RURAL COMMUNITIES.**

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 11 of the Constitution also provides that “[t]he State values the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human rights”;

WHEREAS, Article VIII, Section 11 of the Constitution also provides that “[t]he State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost” and that “[t]here shall be priority for the needs of the under-privileged, sick, elderly, disabled, women, and children.”;

WHEREAS, the current state of health human resources in the Philippines is characterized by the maldistribution and over-concentration of health professionals in urban areas, leading to poor health outcomes in these areas underserved by the lack of quality health providers;

WHEREAS on April 18, 2017, as reported by CNN, Dr. Shahid Jaja Sinolinding, a practicing ophthalmologist in the province of Cotabato City was shot to death by an unidentified assailant who posed as a patient.

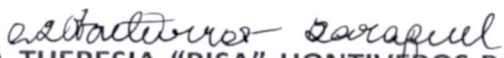
WHEREAS, the killing of Dr. Sinolinding, the 2<sup>nd</sup> death of a physician practicing in rural areas in 2 months following the brutal murder of Dr. Dreyfuss Perlas, a native of Aklan who served as the Municipal Health Officer of Sapad, Lanao del Norte at the time of his death, should be condemned and should likewise be prioritized by the appropriate law enforcement agencies to swiftly bring the perpetrators of these crimes to justice;

WHEREAS, acts or threats of violence on medical doctors and other health care professionals particularly those practicing in rural areas significantly undermine efforts of the government to provide access to quality health care services for people in poor and marginalized communities as these incidents prevent physicians and other health workers from opting to serve in these communities;

WHEREAS, the safety and welfare of physicians and other health workers in rural areas are of paramount importance in view of their value in these communities which would otherwise not have access to health care services;

***NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved to direct the SENATE Committees on Public Order and Health to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, with the end view of enacting measures to ensure the safety and well-being of physicians and health workers in rural areas.***

Adopted.,

  
ANA THERESIA "RISA" HONTIVEROS-BARAQUEL