

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Second Regular Session )

SENATE  
P.S. Resolution No. 586

18 JAN 17 P3:34

Introduced by: Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" A. Aquino IV

RECEIVED  
A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT ANY  
PROPOSAL TO AMEND OR REVISE THE 1987 PHILIPPINE CONSTITUTION  
SHOULD BE DONE THROUGH A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION WITH THE  
END VIEW OF UPHOLDING THE RIGHTS AND INTERESTS OF THE FILIPINO  
PEOPLE

**WHEREAS**, the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides in Article XVII Sec. 1 that any amendment to, or revision of, this Constitution may be proposed by: 1) The Congress, upon a vote of three-fourths (3/4) of all its Members; or 2) A constitutional convention;

**WHEREAS**, Article XVII Sec. 3 of the same Constitution states that the Congress may, by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of all its Members, call a constitutional convention, or by a majority vote of all its Members, submit to the electorate the calling of such convention;

**WHEREAS**, jurisprudence dictates that indeed the power to amend the Constitution or to propose amendments thereto is not included in the general grant of legislative powers to Congress. It is part of the inherent powers of the people- as the repository of sovereignty in a republican state, such as ours- to make, and hence, to amend their own fundamental law. Congress may propose amendments to the Constitution merely because the same explicitly grants such powers. Hence, when exercising the same, it is said that Senators and members of the House of Representatives act, not as members of Congress, but as component elements of a constituent assembly;

**WHEREAS**, the Congress has the power to propose amendments to the Constitution. However, this should be exercised with extreme caution to protect the process from self-serving provisions of incumbent elected officials. The transparency of the process of changing the Constitution through a Constitutional Convention shall better serve the common good of Filipinos because the delegates are the people themselves.

**WHEREAS**, the delegates to the Constitutional Convention must be independent and free from any political affiliations and interests in the performance of their functions. They should preserve the integrity of the democratic process so as not to propose any amendment which would run counter to the welfare of the people. This is not the time to propose any

amendment to term extensions of incumbent officials. Delegates should focus on provisions to enhance the right of the people to reduce social, economic and political inequalities;

**RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED,** to express the sense of the Senate that any proposal to amend or revise the 1987 Philippine Constitution should be done through a Constitutional Convention with the end view of upholding the rights and interests of the Filipino people.

Adopted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Benigno Aquino". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'B' and 'A'.