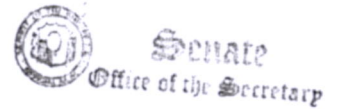


SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
*Second Regular Session* )



'18 MAR -5 P3:38

**SENATE**  
P.S. Res. No. 672

RECEIVED BY: 

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Introduced by Senator Poe

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**RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN, CHILDREN, FAMILY RELATIONS AND GENDER EQUALITY TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE STATUS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8552 OR THE DOMESTIC ADOPTION ACT OF 1998 FOR THE PURPOSE OF DOING A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW AND GAP ANALYSIS OF THE LAW, STREAMLINING ADOPTION PROCEDURES, AND MAKING FORMAL ADOPTION MORE ACCESSIBLE TO ALL WELL-MEANING ADOPTERS AND CHILDREN DECLARED LEGALLY AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION**

WHEREAS, Section 3(2), Article XV of the 1987 Constitution provides that "The State shall defend... the right of children to assistance, including proper care and nutrition, and special protection from all forms of neglect, abuse, cruelty, exploitation and other conditions prejudicial to their development";

WHEREAS, Article 20 (3) of the Convention on the Rights of the Child for which the Philippines is a signatory to mandates that State Parties shall ensure alternative care for the child including adoption;

WHEREAS, the Philippines has an abandoned children problem in that about 1.8 million children in the country, or more than 1% of the entire population, are "abandoned or neglected," according to the United Nations' Children's Rights & Emergency Relief Organization<sup>1</sup>;

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.latimes.com/world/asia/la-fg-philippines-orphans-adv-snap-story.html>

WHEREAS, the Department of Social Welfare and Development has facilitated an average of 1,300 children annually, while the Inter-Country Adoption Board has yielded an average of 400 Filipino kids adoptions yearly<sup>2</sup>;

WHEREAS, the disparity in the number of children declared legally available for adoption and the number of successful legal adoptions in the country is indicative of flaws in the Domestic Adoption Act and its implementation;

WHEREAS, it is public knowledge that legal adoption under the Domestic Adoption Act is a long and costly procedure; that government agencies which are understaffed frequently demand documents that are impossible to procure; and that even with the necessary paperwork, simple procedures can drag on for years;

WHEREAS, well-meaning adopters are forced to resort to informal adoption practices such as simulating birth records in order to avoid the tedious and expensive procedure of formal adoption;

WHEREAS, there is anecdotal evidence of children declared legally available for adoption who don't end up being adopted even with willing and qualified adopters because adoption procedures drag on for years until would-be adoptees eventually become too old for adoption;

WHEREAS, updated orphan and adoption statistics are extremely hard to come by, contributing to the difficulty of assessing the efficiency of the Domestic Adoption Act;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate, to direct the Senate Committee on Women, Children, Family Relations and Gender Equality to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the status of the implementation of Republic Act No. 8552 or the Domestic Adoption Act of 1998 for

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/lifestyle/content/247444/adopt-children-legally-dswd-urges-families/story/>

the purpose of doing a comprehensive review and gap analysis of the law, streamlining adoption procedures, and making formal adoption more accessible to all well-meaning adopters and children declared legally available for adoption

*Adopted,*

  
**GRACE POE**