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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
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SENATE
P.S. Res 683

RECEIVED BY



Introduced by Senator Poe

RESOLUTION

URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON HEALTH AND DEMOGRAPHY AND PUBLIC SERVICES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, REGARDING THE POLICIES OF THE GOVERNMENT IN RELATION TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH SIDE OF THE EVER GROWING NUMBER OF MOBILE PHONE USERS AND CELL SITES AND/OR TOWERS IN THE PHILIPPINES, WITH THE END GOAL OF ENSURING THE SAFETY OF THE PUBLIC, ESPECIALLY CHILDREN, FROM THE HEALTH HAZARDS BROUGHT ABOUT BY ELECTRO-MAGNETIC FREQUENCIES

WHEREAS, Section 4, Article 2 of the Constitution declares that "the prime duty of the Government is to serve and protect the people";

WHEREAS, Section 5, Article 2 of the Constitution gives importance to the "protection of life" and the "promotion of general welfare";

WHEREAS, Section 15, Article 2 of the Constitution declares that the State "shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them";

WHEREAS, Section 16, Article of the Constitution adheres to the principle and/or policy that "the State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature";

WHEREAS, it has been recently reported by the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) that there are around 120.3 million prepaid mobile subscribers and 5.4 million post-paid mobile subscribers in the Philippines – that is a total of 125.7 million cellphone users;

WHEREAS, recent reports further show that Globe and PLDT have about 20,000 towers and/or cell sites all around the Philippines¹;

WHEREAS, given the above-mentioned numbers and statistics, it is high time to likewise give deserved attention into a different side brought about by technological advancements in the telecom industry – the public health concern amidst the trend of digitization, internet penetration and the boom of overlapping “extremely low frequency” (ELF) and/or “radiofrequency radiation” (RFR);

WHEREAS, scientists and doctors have claimed that human beings are bioelectrical systems and that our “hearts and brains are regulated by internal bioelectrical signals” and that “environmental exposures to artificial electro-magnetic frequencies (EMFs) can interact with fundamental biological processes in the human body” and in some cases may cause the following, among others²:

- a. Discomfort, or sleep disruption, or loss of well-being (impaired mental functioning and impaired metabolism) or sometimes, maybe it is a dread disease like cancer or Alzheimer’s disease;
- b. It may be interfering with one’s ability to become pregnant, or to carry a child to full term, or result in brain development changes that are bad for the child; and
- c. It may be these exposures play a role in causing long-term impairments to normal growth and development of children, tipping the scales away from becoming productive adults.³

WHEREAS, governments and scientists worldwide had also recognized potential health risks of cell towers within 300 to 400 meters’ radius⁴:

- On April 2, 2009, the European Parliament overwhelmingly passed a resolution on “Health Concerns Associated with Electromagnetic Fields (EMFs)”. One of the resolutions is that the wireless telecommunications facilities should *not* be placed near schools, places of worship, retirement homes, and health care institutions.

¹ <http://business.inquirer.net/244506/govt-pushes-new-cell-tower-scheme-level-field-better-service>

² “Summary for the Public” (2014 Supplement)” by Cindy Sage, MA of the Sage Associates, Co-Editor, BioInitiative Report.

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ Health and Environmental Concerns Regarding Mobile Phone Base Stations (Cell Towers).

- In 2009, the L.A. County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to seek federal legislation to overturn Section 704 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, which takes away local government rights to refuse cell towers for health reasons. Since then, several other local governments in California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Oregon have passed similar resolutions.

WHEREAS, given the above, it is the duty of the State to address the matter and ensure the safety of Filipinos in this modern day and age characterized by interconnectivity and social media;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to urge the Senate Committees on Health and Demography and Public Services to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, regarding the policies of the Government in relation to the public health side of the ever growing number of mobile phone users and cell sites and/or towers in the Philippines, with the end goal of ensuring the safety of the public especially children from the health hazards brought about by electro-magnetic frequencies.

Adopted,


GRACE POE