## SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

Third Regular Session

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SENATE P. S. Res No. \_\_\_\_956

18 NOV 27, P4:31

Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay REC

## RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE FULL SUPPORT OF THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES IN THE OBSERVANCE OF THE WORLD AIDS DAY 2018

WHEREAS, World AIDS Day takes place on the 1st December each year. It's an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV, to show support for people living with HIV, and to commemorate those who have died from an AIDS-related illness. Founded in 1988, World AIDS Day was the first ever global health day<sup>1</sup>;

WHEREAS, World AIDS Day originated at the 1988 World Summit of Ministers of Health on Programmes for AIDS Prevention. Since then, every year United Nations agencies, governments and civil society join together to campaign around specific themes related to AIDS<sup>2</sup>;

WHEREAS, World AIDS Day 2018 theme encourages everyone to know their HIV status<sup>3</sup>;

WHEREAS, UNAIDS is leading the global effort to end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030 as part of the Sustainable Development Goals <sup>4</sup>;

WHEREAS, World AIDS Day is important because it reminds the public and government that HIV has not gone away – there is still a vital need to raise money, increase awareness, fight prejudice and improve education<sup>5</sup>;

World AIDS Day Website, About World AIDS Day, https://www.worldaidsday.org/about/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> UNAIDS Website, World AIDS Day 2018 theme encourages everyone to know their HIV status, http://www.unaids.org/en/resources/presscentre/featurestories/2018/september/20180917\_WAD\_theme <sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> UNAIDS Website, About UNAIDS, http://www.unaids.org/en/whoweare/about

WHEREAS, the first case of HIV infection in the Philippines was reported in 1984. Since then, there have been 52,280 confirmed HIV cases reported to the HIV/AIDS & ART REGISTRY OF THE PHILIPPINES (HARP)6;

WHEREAS, a total of 2,511 deaths due to any cause among people with HIV in the Philippines were reported from January 1984 to February 2018<sup>7</sup>;

WHEREAS, World AIDS Day is an opportunity to show solidarity with the millions of people living with HIV worldwide. Most people do this by wearing an HIV awareness red ribbon on the day8;

WHEREAS, the Philippines supports the observance of the World AIDS Day 2018, as it shares the vision of raising awareness about the importance of knowing one's status and calling for the removal of all barriers to accessing HIV testing;

BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Senate of the Philippines expresses its full support in the observance of the World AIDS Day 2018.

Adopted,

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Supra [Citation 1]

Department of Health Website, HIV/AIDS & ART REGISTRY OF THE PHILIPPINES (FEBRUARY 2018), https://www.doh.gov.ph/sites/default/files/statistics/EB\_HIV\_February\_AIDSreg2018.pdf Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Supra [Citation 1]