

SENATE

P. S. Res. No. 1000

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Introduced by Senator Aquilino “Koko” Pimentel III

**A RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE(S)
TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION,
ON THE FAILURE OF MOST LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS
TO BUILD “BAHAY PAG-ASA” CENTERS IN THEIR
RESPECTIVE JURISDICTIONS AND ON REPORTS THAT
EXISTING CENTERS ARE “WORSE THAN PRISONS” AND
OPERATED UNDER “SUBHUMAN CONDITIONS” DESPITE
ADEQUATE FUNDING UNDER THE LAW**

1 **WHEREAS**, *Article XV, Section 3(2)* of the *Constitution* mandates the
2 State to defend “[t]he right of children to assistance, including proper care
3 and nutrition, and special protection from all forms of neglect, abuse, cruelty,
4 exploitation, and other conditions prejudicial to their development”;

5
6 **WHEREAS**, in *Article II, Section 13* of the *Constitution*, “[t]he State
7 recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building xxx”;

8
9 **WHEREAS**, under Republic Act No. 10630, the 2013 amendatory law
10 that strengthened the Juvenile Justice System in the Philippines, each of our
11 81 provinces and 143 highly urbanized cities is required to build, fund, and
12 operate a “Bahay Pag-Asa” within their jurisdiction;

13
14 **WHEREAS**, a “Bahay Pag-Asa” is referred to under the law as a 24-
15 hour child-caring institution providing short-term residential care for children
16 in conflict with the law (CICL) who are above fifteen but below eighteen
17 years of age who are awaiting court disposition of their cases or transfer to
18 other agencies or jurisdiction;

19
20 **WHEREAS**, every “Bahay Pag-Asa” under the law must have an
21 intensive juvenile intervention and support center and must be operated by a
22 multi-disciplinary team of professionals composed of a social worker, a
23 psychologist or mental health professional, a medical doctor, an educational

1 or guidance counsellor, and a Barangay Council for the Protection of
2 Children (BCPC) member who will work on an individualized intervention
3 plan with the child and the child's family;

4
5 **WHEREAS**, the law appropriated P400 Million Pesos for the
6 construction of "Bahay Pag-Asa" centers in provinces or cities with high
7 incidence of CICL to be identified by the Department of Social Welfare and
8 Development (DSWD) and the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Council (JJWC)
9 on a priority basis and authorized the national government to make available
10 P5 Million Pesos per rehabilitation center while the local government units
11 (LGUs) concerned were required to match the P5 Million Pesos counterpart
12 share of the national government;

13
14 **WHEREAS**, despite the law providing for adequate funding to ensure
15 "Bahay Pag-Asa" centers are built, there are reportedly only 58 facilities
16 nationwide, miserably below the requirement of the law that all 81 provinces
17 and 143 highly urbanized cities must have at least one "Bahay Pag-Asa"
18 center each;

19
20 **WHEREAS**, in the course of Congressional hearings on the proposed
21 lowering of the minimum age of criminal responsibility, reports came out
22 about the alleged "subhuman conditions" in "Bahay Pag-Asa" centers with
23 some resource persons describing them as "worse than prisons"; and

24
25 **WHEREAS**, before Congress discusses a measure that will lower the
26 minimum age of criminal responsibility and potentially rob Filipino children
27 of their youthful innocence, it is urgent and important that Congress first
28 conducts an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the failure of government, as a
29 whole, to ensure that there are "Bahay Pag-Asa" centers in every province
30 and highly urbanized cities in the Philippines where CICLs and their
31 respective families are given the appropriate care, intervention, and support
32 that they need;

33
34 **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, as it is hereby resolved,
35 that the Senate of the Philippines direct its appropriate committee(s) to
36 conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the failure of most local
37 government units to build "Bahay Pag-asa" centers in their respective
38 jurisdictions and on reports that existing centers are "worse than prisons" and
39 operated under "subhuman conditions" despite the law providing for
40 adequate funding for the purpose of building and operating these centers.

Adopted,


AQUILINO "KOKO" PIMENTEL III