Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 480

Sponsored by **Honorable Estrellita B. Suansing**

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE NATIONAL DENGUE PREVENTION AND CONTROL PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, REVIEW THE PROCESSING AND REGISTRATION OF THE DENGUE VACCINE INCLUDING THE CONTRACT TO PURCHASE FROM SANOFI PASTEUR, EXAMINE RELEVANT RESEARCH AND STUDIES ON THE EFFICACY AND SAFETY OF THE VACCINE AND PROPOSE REMEDIAL MEASURES THAT PROMOTE PUBLIC SAFETY

WHEREAS, dengue haemorrhagic fever is considered and recognized as one of the most extensively spread mosquito borne viral disease that has affected many Filipinos through the years. It is common among tropical and sub tropical countries like the Philippines and it is transmitted through *aedes aegypti* mosquito bite. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), over 400 million people all over the world are infected every year. Hence, the WHO targets the prevention and reduction of mortality and morbidity resulting from the dengue disease by 2020;

WHEREAS, in the Philippines, dengue is a primary public health concern due to the significant increase and upward trend of cases and the rising number of dengue related deaths. The regions mostly affected by dengue are the Calabarzon, Central Visayas, Central Luzon, Northern Mindanao and Soccsksargen. Dengue has become an all year round threat in the country peaking on the rainy months from July to November;

WHEREAS, the first dengue vaccine has been developed by a French pharmaceutical company known as ***Sanofi Pasteur***. The first dengue vaccine called ***CYD-TDV (Dengvaxia)*** apparently underwent twenty (20) years of extensive clinical trials and medical research involving over forty thousand (40,000) patients. This live attenuated

vaccine has been licensed by several dengue epidemic countries in Latin America and Asia including the Philippines;

WHEREAS, the Department of Health must enlighten the House of Representatives about the seemingly hasty and impulsive approval of the Dengue vaccines and allotment of Three Billion Pesos (P3,000,000,000.00) from available funds to purchase the vaccines aimed at supposedly boosting the country's dengue efforts by vaccinating a target of one million Grade 4 pupils in public schools, the first mass dengue vaccination in the world. The actual procurement was delegated to the Philippine Children's Medical Center and the Purchase Order was issued on March 9, 2016;

WHEREAS, the purchase of the dengue vaccines in the total amount of Three Billion Pesos (P3,000,000,000.00) is apparently not included in the General Appropriations Act of 2015. Hence, the source of fund might not have undergone the scrutiny of the House of Representatives where an appropriation must originate as mandated by the Philippine Constitution. Consequently, there is an urgent need to review the purchase of vaccines and the sources of funds to determine if government standards on accountability and transparency had been followed;

WHEREAS, in the meeting of the *Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE)* in Geneva, Switzerland in April 2016, the results of review conducted by the group was presented. Among the findings was that those children aging from 2-5 years old first vaccinated in Asia, there is a statistically significant increased risk of hospitalized dengue in the vaccine recipients. The vaccination program was administered only to children nine (9) years old and above;

WHEREAS, an estimated number of 489,000 Grade 4 pupils in Central Luzon, Calabarzon and the National Capital Region had received the first dose of vaccine early this year and are set to receive their second dose from October to December 2016. Thus, the necessity to examine if there were procedural lapses in the approval of the dengue vaccine or any violations of existing laws, rules or regulations that endangered the lives of the school children;

WHEREAS, there have been serious and highly significant doubts in the scientific community about the safety of the ***CYD-TDV (Dengvaxia)*** vaccine. Only last April, two (2) pupils, one (1) in the Province of Bataan and the other in Muntinlupa City who had been inoculated reportedly died after receiving the first dose of the vaccine;

WHEREAS, based on a Resolution dated July 21, 2016 of the Dengue Expert Panel which is composed of independent and uninvolved experts convened by the Secretary

of Health, the first dose of dengue vaccine immunization to be administered to Grade 4 pupils should be immediately stopped and only the 489,003 pupils who have already been immunized or given the first dose will be given the second and third doses;

WHEREAS, there are concerned sectors that stress the need to determine if there are any adverse effects of the vaccine and that the postponement of the vaccination program will pave the way for a more rigid monitoring and parallel research to ascertain its safety and efficacy;

WHEREAS, the Congress of the Philippines is the bulwark of freedom and democracy as enshrined in the Philippine Constitution of 1987. As such, it must ensure that public funds are utilized intelligently and efficiently. The utilization of 3 Billion pesos for the purchase of a vaccine that apparently increases the risks of its more life threatening form in the long term and may be potentially harmful to our children is a senseless squander of public funds;

WHEREAS, in the spirit of checks and balance between the branches of government, a congressional investigation must be conducted to determine why the Department of Health under the previous administration hastily and knowingly entered into an agreement or contract that might have been grossly disadvantageous to the government. Moreover, it is but fitting that an investigation be immediately carried out on the mysterious deaths of the two (2) pupils after they were inoculated not only to give justice to them and recommend the prosecution of offenders but more importantly to prevent future deaths;

WHEREAS, there is a need to review the present system of approving drugs for use by the consumers among the different agencies concerned such as the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the Formulary Executive Committee (FEC) and the Department of Health (DOH) in order to determine if there are institutional overlaps in their mandates and autonomy as separate government entities and establish possible conflicts of interest in the processing and registration of the dengue vaccine;

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to determine if there is a direct correlation between the death of the two (2) pupils and their inoculation with the first dose of dengue vaccine. If such, the national government must immediately stop its further implementation and stop its expansion to other regions throughout the country to ensure the safety of our pupils. Moreover, if there is fraud on the part of the vaccine supplier, such agreement or contract entered into by the government and the supplier should be immediately rescinded.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, To direct the Committee on Health of the House of Representatives to conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, into the National Dengue Prevention and Control Program of the Department of Health, review the processing and registration of the dengue vaccine including the contract to purchase from Sanofi Pastuer, examine relevant research and studies on the efficacy and safety of the vaccine and propose remedial measures that promote public safety.

Adopted,

ESTRELLITA B. SUANSING