

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS

Second Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1717



Introduced by **HON. FRANCISCO G. DATOL, JR.**

RESOLUTION

FOR THE CALLING OF AN IMMEDIATE CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATION TO DETERMINE THE CULPABILITY OF MERCURY DRUG CORPORATION IN ITS OPEN AND WANTON DEFIANCE OF THE BENEFITS PROVIDED TO SENIOR CITIZENS UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF R.A. NO. 9994, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE EXPANDED SENIOR CITIZENS ACT OF 2010 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, "Article XIII, Section 11 of the Constitution provides that the State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost. There shall be priority for the needs of the underprivileged, sick, **elderly**, disabled, women and children. Article XV, Section 4 of the Constitution Further declares that it is the duty of the family to take care of its **elderly members** while the State may design programs of social security for them.";

WHEREAS, R.A. No. 9994 provides under: "SEC. 4. Privileges for the Senior Citizens. -The senior citizens shall be entitled to the following"(a) the grant of twenty percent (20%) discount and exemption from the value -added tax (VAT), if applicable, on the sale of the following goods and services from all establishments, for the exclusive use and enjoyment or availment of the senior citizen."

WHEREAS, a very reliable information and testimonies of concerned senior citizens unearth that Mercury Drug Stores in Quezon City and elsewhere has been transgressing with impunity the provisions of R.A. No. 9994, otherwise known as the Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010;

WHEREAS, this company has been making it difficult for senior citizens to avail of their 20% discount and VAT exemption as provided by said law;

WHEREAS, this company had made it, as a store policy, to ask its senior citizens clients several documents in order to avail of their discount and exemption;

WHEREAS, this was resorted to by said company in order for senior citizens to forgo their application for discount and exemption thereby rendering nugatory the law on the Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010.

WHEREAS, this Resolution is proposed in aid of legislation for the possible amendment of the said law regarding its strict implementation and increase of penalty in order to compel compliance with the law that is beneficial to elderly and in line with the state policy anent priority needs of senior citizens;

NOW, THEREFORE, FOR AND IN CONSIDERATION OF THE FOREGOING PREMISES, AND FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE INTEREST OF THE VULNERABLE SECTOR OF OUR SOCIETY, THE SENIOR CITIZENS, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED THAT A CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY BE CONDUCTED TO INVESTIGATE MERCURY DRUGS CORPORATION ALLEGED NON-COMPLIANCE AND CIRCUMVENTION OF THE PROVISIONS OF R.A. NO. 9994, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE EXPANDED SENIOR CITIZENS ACT OF 2010 .

Approved,



HON. FRANCISCO G. DATOL, JR.
Representative
Senior Citizens Party-List