

Republic of the Philippines
Congress of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Metro Manila
Seventeenth Congress
First Regular Session

Begun and held in Metro Manila, on Monday, the twenty-fifth day of July, two thousand sixteen.

RESOLUTION NO. 40

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE FULL SUPPORT OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE "WESTMINSTER DECLARATION" AND URGING THE CONCERNED LAND TRANSPORT AGENCIES TO FAITHFULLY IMPLEMENT ROAD SAFETY LAWS

WHEREAS, per the 2015 Global Status Report on Road Safety of the World Health Organization (WHO), road traffic accidents claim more than 1.25 million people every year and injure as many as 50 million individuals, with ninety percent (90%) of the casualties occurring in low- and middle-income countries;

WHEREAS, in view of the scale of the road safety problem, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly has launched the Decade of Action for Road Safety (2011-2020), a global framework guiding national-level action with the goal of reducing global road traffic deaths and injuries by 2020;

WHEREAS, while the WHO notes some progress on the 6th year of the Decade of Action for Road Safety (2011-2020), it noted that many countries still need to strengthen their road safety legislation;

WHEREAS, to provide "a platform for national and local parliamentarians and legislators with an interest or responsibility for road safety to advocate for improved laws", the WHO and the Towards Zero Foundation, in association with the UK Parliamentary Advisory Council for Transport Safety, organized the International Workshop and Launch of the Global Forum for Road Safety Legislators on 12 December 2016 in London;

WHEREAS, the Chairperson of the House Committee on Transportation was nominated by the WHO to attend the event and reported on the road safety situation and legislative priorities of the Philippines, observed the experiences of other countries and committed, along with other parliamentarians, to advocate the strengthening of road safety laws;

WHEREAS, a formal agreement dubbed as the "Westminster Declaration" was adopted by the Global Forum for Road Safety Legislators which encourages parliamentary bodies to "adopt comprehensive laws on behavioral and protective risk factors with a view towards increasing the proportion of countries with comprehensive laws from fifteen percent (15%) to twenty percent (20%) by 2020 and adopt measures to fund road safety";

WHEREAS, the "Westminster Declaration" is consistent with the UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/70/260, adopted on 15 April 2016, which invites Member States to consider adopting comprehensive road safety legislation in order to increase the number of countries with such legislation on risk factors such as non-use of seat belts, child restraints and helmets; driving under the influence of alcohol, overspeeding, and distracted or impaired driving;

WHEREAS, the House of Representatives has observed that, despite the Philippines presently having a number of road safety laws, road safety risks can still be observed nationwide largely due to ineffective law enforcement and budgetary and personnel constraints;

WHEREAS, the number of road traffic accidents in the country remains significant, with the Philippine National Police (PNP) reporting twenty-four thousand six hundred fifty-six (24,656) accidents in 2015, with one thousand forty (1,040) people dead;

WHEREAS, road traffic injuries and deaths, considered by the WHO to be "both predictable and preventable", can be addressed by strong multi-sectoral partnerships that tackle road safety issues: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, as it is hereby resolved by the House of Representatives, To express its full support to the "Westminster Declaration" towards the reduction of road traffic deaths, injuries, and damages.

Resolved, further, That the House of Representatives commits to coordinate with the concerned implementing agencies and road safety advocates in coming up with needed budgetary and regulatory laws, policies and strategies to promote road safety and to exercise its oversight powers to ensure the proper implementation of such road safety laws, policies and strategies.

Resolved, finally, That the House of Representatives urges the Department of Transportation, the Land Transportation Office, the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board, the PNP-Highway Patrol Group, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority and other concerned enforcement agencies, pursuant to their statutory duties and functions, to prevent the further loss of lives and the destruction of properties by faithfully implementing the road safety laws such as:

(1) Republic Act No. 8750 or the "Seat Belts Use Act of 1999";

(2) Republic Act No. 10054 or the "Motorcycle Helmet Act of 2009";


(3) Republic Act No. 10586 or the "Anti-Drunk and Drugged Driving Act of 2013";

(4) Republic Act No. 10666 or the "Children's Safety on Motorcycles Act of 2015";

(5) Republic Act No. 10913 or the "Anti-Distracted Driving Act"; and

(6) Republic Act No. 10916 or the "Road Speed Limiter Act of 2016".

Adopted,



PANTALEON D. ALVAREZ
Speaker

This Resolution was adopted by the House of Representatives on March 8, 2017.



CESAR STRAIT FAREJA
Secretary General