

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 376



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Introduced by Rep. Edgar Mary S. Sarmiento

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**A RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
TO CONDUCT A COMPREHENSIVE NATIONWIDE VACCINATION AGAINST  
POLIO, TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY MEASURES TO PREVENT ITS FURTHER  
TRANSMISSION AND PROLIFERATION, AND TO PROMOTE POLIO  
PREVENTION EDUCATION AMONG CONSTITUENTS**

**WHEREAS**, according to the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention<sup>1</sup>, *polio*, or *poliomyelitis*, is a “crippling and potentially deadly infectious disease caused by the poliovirus.” The virus spreads from person to person, invading an infected person’s nervous system, causing irreversible paralysis.

**WHEREAS**, in the United States, polio has been eliminated completely since 1979 through widespread polio vaccination and strict regulations regarding entry through its airports and ferry ports<sup>2</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, the same has been done for the Philippines since before 1993, when the last known case of wild polio virus was recorded; widespread vaccination has since been conducted resulting in the Philippines being declared as wild polio-free in the year 2000 along with the rest of the World Health Organization’s Western Pacific Region<sup>3</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, however, last 19 September 2019, the Department of Health announced an outbreak of polio in the Philippines when a polio virus case was confirmed on 16 September 2019 in a 3-year-old girl from Lanao del Sur<sup>4</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, in addition to the case of the minor female from Lanao del Sure, environmental samples from sewage in Metro Manila and waterways in Davao City likewise were confirmed to contain the polio virus<sup>5</sup>;

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/polio/about/index.htm>; retrieved 23 September 2019.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/polio/us/index.html>; retrieved 23 September 2019.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.who.int/philippines/news/detail/19-09-2019-who-unicef-and-partners-support-philippine-department-of-health-s-polio-outbreak-response>; retrieved 23 September 2019.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*

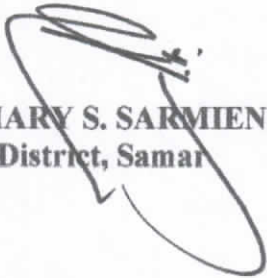
<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*

**WHEREAS**, vaccines and medical technology now exist to prevent further transmission and proliferation of the disease among people;

**WHEREAS**, there is an urgent and dire need to prevent the spread of this disease;

**WHEREAS**, terminating the current existence of the disease in the country is not sufficient – the same shall likewise be prevented from ever recurring by employing all possible measures to hinder its recurrence and to educate the public about polio prevention;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the House of Representatives to urge the Department of Health to conduct a comprehensive nationwide vaccination against polio, to take all necessary measures to prevent its further transmission and proliferation, and to promote polio prevention education among constituents.

  
**EDGAR MARY S. SARMIENTO**  
1<sup>st</sup> District, Samar