

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

First Regular Session
EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

House Resolution No. 538



Introduced by the Honorable Precious Hipolito Castelo

A RESOLUTION

URGING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALARMING RISE OF CHILD AND TEENAGE PREGNANCIES IN THE COUNTRY, WITH THE END VIEW OF PROPOSING MEASURES AND PROGRAMS TO AVERT THE SAME

WHEREAS, the Commission on Population (POPCOM) has recently raised concerns about early and unplanned pregnancies, citing that around 500 teenage girls give birth in the country every day as more adolescents engage in premarital sex;

WHEREAS, POPCOM also said that around 196,000 Filipinos between the ages of 15 and 19 get pregnant each year;

WHEREAS, the Philippines ranks second in the world with the lowest sexual consent at twelve (12) years old – only beating Nigeria whose age of sexual consent was set at eleven (11) years old;

WHEREAS, even worse, data show that the incidence of multiple teenage pregnancies is rising, with women between the ages of 15-19 having two (2) or more children;

WHEREAS, according to research conducted by the National Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS), children born to very young mothers are at an increased risk of sickness and death;

WHEREAS, the study further said that teenage mothers are more likely to experience adverse pregnancy outcomes and to be constrained in their ability to pursue educational opportunities than young women who delay childbearing;

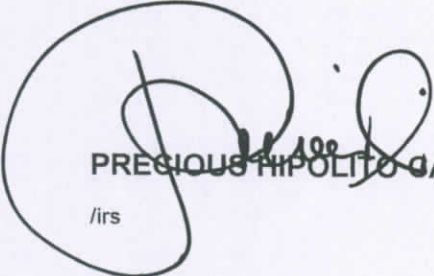
WHEREAS, child and teenage mothers are often not prepared to deal with the consequences involved in parenting, and often, factors such as financial burden, social stigma, and other problems concerning familial and romantic relationships can put a newborn at risk;

WHEREAS, it is therefore important to deepen our understanding of this phenomenon in order to curb its rising incidence;

WHEREAS, it is imperative for both the public and the private sector, including civil society and youth organizations, to initiate programs and measures, especially in the context of health, education and social development, that will avert the rise of child and teenage pregnancies;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives to direct the appropriate committee to conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, on the alarming rise of child and teenage pregnancies in the country.

ADOPTED,



PRECIOUS HIPOLITO CASTELO
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