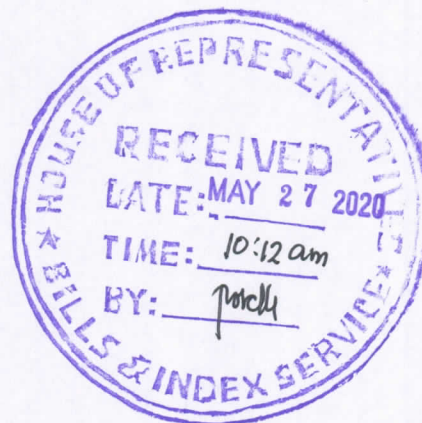


Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

House Resolution No. 912



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**Introduced by ACT-CIS Party-list Representative ROWENA NIÑA O. TADURAN**

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**Resolution on the proposed Mandatory Quarantine of Senior Citizens**

We live in a very difficult time; that is a given. As such, government has instituted numerous measures to safeguard and ensure the safety and health of everyone. Thus, we have the GCQ & the MECQ. These were designed to arrest the spread of the virus.

As citizens, we must all cooperate in the efforts to fight this war against an invisible enemy. However, in the battle versus COVID-19, we must never ignore our fundamental law.

There is a proposal for the mandatory quarantine of senior citizens. Reportedly, it aims to protect the elderly (who are said to be vulnerable) from infection. The end may be laudable; but is the means legal and moral?

The equal protection clause of the Constitution proscribes against unfair and unjust discrimination. It is submitted that the proposal contradicts the Constitution.

Senior citizens may be vulnerable to the virus; but is it right to prevent them from living normal lives just like the rest of the populace? Age is the only factor which sets them apart from the rest. Is it a valid basis?

Countless seniors are living a healthy life. Many of them are still parts of the labor force, contributing immensely to the economy. Of course, some seniors are of frail health; but that's not reason enough for the subject proposal.

Maybe we can advise or request seniors to avoid going out unless absolutely necessary. But we should not prevent them just like that. It is inhumane. It is cruel. It is unjust.

Come to think of it, if this proposal succeeds, many seniors will be unable to go to work - and that includes many government officials. Are we ready to take the plunge?

  
**ROWENA NIÑA O. TADURAN**