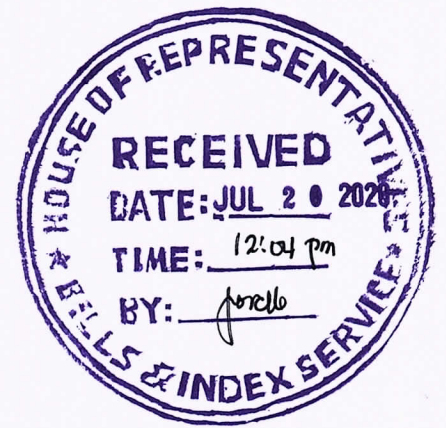


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Resolution No. 1051



Introduced by the Honorable Precious Hipolito Castelo

A RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED ILLEGAL SALE OF BLOOD PLASMA TO CORONAVIRUS 2019 (COVID-19) PATIENTS

WHEREAS, in a study conducted by Mayo Clinic Proceedings involving 20,000 hospitalized COVID-19 patients, it was found that blood plasma from people who recovered is a safe COVID-19 treatment¹;

WHEREAS, the plasma collected is called convalescent plasma, which may contain antibodies that might help fight the infection;

WHEREAS, while there is no approved treatment for COVID-19, there is some information that suggested that the blood plasma treatment might help some patients recover from the virus;

WHEREAS, the study suggests that giving the blood plasma to people at the early stages of the disease may be beneficial²;

WHEREAS, the US Food and Drug Administration (US FDA) also said that a fully recovered patient may be able to help patients currently fighting the infection by donating his or her plasma which contains COVID-19 antibodies³;

WHEREAS, the Department of Health (DOH) reminded in one of its pressers that only accredited hospitals are allowed to process the extraction of convalescent plasma from recovered COVID-19 patients, and that this process shall be done under strict protocols;

WHEREAS, DOH in Central Visayas has received reports that some recovered COVID-19 patients are making money by selling their convalescent plasma to families of critically ill patients⁴;

WHEREAS, there have been claims that plasma is being sold for as high as Php80,000 per bag in Barangay Luz, Cebu City, one of the hardest hit barangays of COVID-19 infections in Region 7;

¹ <https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2020/06/18/blood-plasma-people-who-recovered-is-safe-covid-19-treatment-study-says/>

² Id.

³ <https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/donate-covid-19-plasma>

⁴ <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1305610/doh-probes-claims-plasma-being-sold-to-virus-patients>

WHEREAS, Dr. Mary Jean Loreche, DOH Region 7 spokesperson, strongly advised against this practice as blood donors who have not undergone proper evaluation have the tendency to lie about their present medical condition, considering the economic woes brought about by the crisis;

WHEREAS, this unacceptable practice may do more harm than good as there are diseases that may be transmitted through blood transfusion;

WHEREAS, donation of blood plasma should be voluntary so that it may be available to everyone who desperately needs it for survival;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives to direct the Committee on Health to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the alleged illegal sale of blood plasma to (COVID-19) patients.

ADOPTED,


PRECIOUS HIPOLITO CASTELO