

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

Eighteenth Congress  
First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. **607**



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Introduced by Representative **JAKE VINCENT S. VILLA**

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**RESOLUTION**

**URGING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, TO INVESTIGATE IN AID OF LEGISLATION, IN DETERMINING THE NEED TO REINSTATE THE BUREAU OF DENTAL SERVICES IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND THE INCREASE OF NUMBER OF DENTIST WORKING IN THE GOVERNMENT**

**WHEREAS**, Under Article 2 Section 15 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution, the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them. According to the Department of Health, dental problems is one of the main causes of absenteeism among the grade school and high school students. Dental problems greatly affect the student's capacity to learn because they can't attend classes;<sup>1</sup>

**WHEREAS**, the Filipino people have been long suffering from various oral health diseases, the most common of which are dental caries and periodontal disease. According to Philippine Dental Association, Inc., the latest NMEDS or National Monitoring and Evaluation on Dental Survey, reveals that the dental caries has a common rate of 87.4%;

**WHEREAS**, it is more economical for the government to focus on preventive maintenance rather than curative oral health programs. According to studies children 6 months to 2 years of age Primary Health Care should be given to prevent dental caries and tooth loss. This can be started by teaching the public regarding the importance of oral health in relation to systematic health. Further, there is a need for educating expectant mothers so that they would know their role until they have given birth which includes taking care of the primary teeth by advocating breastfeeding;

**WHEREAS**, to attract more dentist to work in the government, Local Government Units in provinces, cities and municipalities would need adequate resources and also to cater to the needs of their locality. Many municipalities do not employ dentist to work

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1. Philippine Dental Association, Inc. Letter

2. <https://www.philstar.com/lifestyle/health-and-family/2019/02/26/1896921/10-things-you-might-not-know-about-your-oral-health>

for them. To motivate dentist working in the government, there is a need to provide them with proper training, empower them and have a higher salary grade. This would encourage and ensure that dentists perform their duties and responsibilities at the highest levels that are well deserved by the Filipino people;

**WHEREAS**, to eliminate illegal practitioners, unlicensed dentist all over the country the government must enact higher penalties to protect the general public from said unscrupulous individuals. In order to align all institutions concerning oral health the Bureau of Dental Services under the Department of Health must be reinstated. An Oral Health Division under Department of Health headed by a dental professional with a public health degree coupled with budget allocation from the Department of Budget and Management can spearhead all programs regarding the dental needs of the citizenry;

**WHEREAS**, it is worthy to note that the month of February of every year is known as the National Oral Health Month to raise awareness about the importance of oral health care and to give dentists a little bit of appreciation;<sup>2</sup> and

**WHEREAS**, this representation is in full support of reinstating the Bureau of Dental Services under the Department of Health and to increase the number of dentists working in the government.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, as it is hereby resolved by the House of Representatives of the Philippines, to urge the appropriate committees of the House of Representatives, to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, regarding the need for the reinstatement of the Bureau of Dental Services under the Department of Health.

Adopted,

  
**JAKE VINCENT S. VILLA**

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1. Philippine Dental Association, Inc. Letter

2. <https://www.philstar.com/lifestyle/health-and-family/2019/02/26/1896921/10-things-you-might-not-know-about-your-oral-health>