



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Eighteenth Congress
First Regular Session



HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 364

Introduced by HON. YASSER ALONTO BALINDONG

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONDUCT MASSIVE INFORMATION DISSEMINATION AND CAMPAIGN TO PREVENT THE FURTHER SPREAD OF THE POLIO VIRUS IN THE PHILIPPINES, ESPECIALLY IN LANAOS DEL SUR, WITH THE PURPOSE OF ERADICATING THE DISEASE

WHEREAS, the Department of Health (DOH) on Thursday, September 19, 2019 declared a polio epidemic after it recorded a case of the disease in Lanaos del Sur, which is very disturbing, considering that this is our country's first confirmed case after 19 years of being polio-free;

WHEREAS, Health Secretary Francisco Duque III declared an epidemic after finding one positive case in Lanaos del Sur and one in Manila, after environmental samples tested positive for poliovirus, as this situation is considered an epidemic in a polio-free country;

WHEREAS, Polio or Poliomyelitis is a highly infectious viral disease, which mainly affects young children. The virus is transmitted by person-to-person spread mainly thru the fecal-oral route, or by a common vehicle (e.g. contaminated water or food) and multiplies in the intestine, from where it can invade the nervous system and can cause paralysis which is often permanent;

WHEREAS, according to the World Health Organization, there is no cure for polio as it can only be prevented by immunization;

WHEREAS, the DOH had earlier said that the Philippines was at "high risk" of polio virus transmission after Manila's sewage showed two samples that tested positive for polio virus;

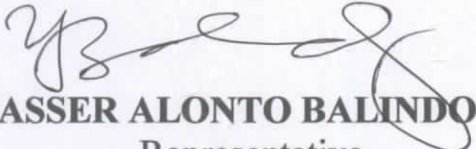
WHEREAS, the DOH sees low vaccination coverage, poor early surveillance of polio symptoms, and substandard sanitation practices as culprits in this reemergence of the disease;

WHEREAS, it is a fact that the Dengvaxia vaccine scare has caused a nationwide antipathy of any vaccine among parents of young children, which may aggravate the resurgence of polio among our young children;

WHEREAS, since immunization is the only way to prevent and eradicate the disease, the DOH needs to conduct information campaigns and vaccination in the whole country, especially in Lanao del Sur, where the polio virus has already infected one child: Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to direct the Department of Health to launch massive nationwide information campaign about the terrible effects of the polio virus and to convince parents to have their young children immunized with the polio vaccine.

Adopted,


YASSER ALONTO BALINDONG
Representative
2nd District, Lanao del Sur