

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 339

Introduced by
HON. FERDINAND MARTIN G. ROMUALDEZ
and
HON. YEDDA MARIE K. ROMUALDEZ

RESOLUTION
CREATING A STANDING COMMITTEE ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
AND SPECIAL NEEDS IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

WHEREAS, it is declared Policy of the State to promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living and an improved quality of life for all;

WHEREAS, for everyone to partake of the fruits of all efforts to lift the country from poverty, it is imperative that the state of the individual citizens are likewise examined in order to remove multiple inequalities in accessing opportunities in society as a result of inherent or acquired physical or mental limitations, consistent with the pledge of United Nations member States under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to "leave no one behind";

WHEREAS, a state of disability manifesting either through physical or mental condition that limits a person's movements, senses, or activities, is a constraint on one's capacity to learn skills in order to compete in the market for employment or earn decent income; people who are classified or merely perceived as disabled, regardless of degree of disability, are often victims of discrimination and are denied chances to work, go to school and participate fully in society – which creates barriers for their prosperity and well-being;

WHEREAS, disability spares no one as it affects all sectors of our society whether children, youth, women and older persons and all levels of our social structures, but impinging to the fullest extent on the poorest of the poor;

WHEREAS, results of the Philippine Statistics Authority's National Disability Prevalence Survey (NDPS) showed that, in 2016, around 12 percent of Filipinos age 15 and older experienced severe disability, almost one in every two (47%) experienced moderate disability while 23 percent with mild disability; that the percentage of persons aged less than 60 who experienced mild disability is 23 percent to 25 percent; that more than one in two persons (53% to 54%) age at least 40 experienced moderate disability; and almost one in every three persons (32%) with severe disability belonged to the older population age group of 60 and older;

WHEREAS, the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on April 15, 2008 binds the Philippine Government to ensure the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities and their inclusion into the mainstream of society on an equal basis with others;

WHEREAS, the Convention challenges people to understand disability as a human rights issue, covering many areas where obstacles can arise, such as physical access to buildings, roads and transportation, and access to information through written and electronic communications; the Convention also aims to reduce stigma and discrimination, which are often reasons why people with disabilities are excluded from education, employment, health and other services;

WHEREAS, considering that the disability agenda has now gained recognition as part of the Sustainable Development Goals from 2016 to 2030, a dedicated Committee for Persons with Disabilities and Special Needs is essential to address the concerns of this particular marginalized sector of our society;

WHEREAS, while the House of Representatives Committee on Social Services includes, among its functions, "all matters directly and principally relating to the social development and welfare of persons with disabilities or special needs" considering the number of subsectors under its constituency competing for recognition and attention, the Committee on Social Services is more often than not constrained to attend first to the needs of its more aggressive subsectors than those of persons with disabilities and special needs;

WHEREAS, it is vital to create a standing House Committee for Persons with Disabilities, separate and distinct from the Committee on Social Services, to give emphasis to the full implementation and amendment of existing laws on disability, and focus on the adoption, expansion and review of the policies and programs for the promotion of the rights and privileges of persons with disabilities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to create a committee especially focused on all matters that will benefit out brethren with disabilities and special needs in order to empower them to become part of the mainstream society, a Committee on Persons with Disabilities whose jurisdiction shall read as:

“Persons with Disabilities and Special Needs, 25 Members. – All matters directly and principally relating to the promotion of the rights and welfare of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) and Special Needs, prevent the causes of disabilities, promote rehabilitation and adaptation, create political, cultural and social environments that engender equalization of opportunities among all persons.”

RESOLVED FURTHER THAT, the jurisdiction of the current Committee on Social Services shall likewise be amended, to read as follows:

“Social Services, 35 Members. – All matters directly and principally relating to social development and social services and interventions that develop and enhance the quality of individual and community life.”

Adopted,


HON. FERDINAND MARTIN G. ROMUALDEZ


HON. YEDDA MARIE K. ROMUALDEZ