



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session



House Resolution No. 906

Introduced by Representatives Presley C. De Jesus, Sergio C. Dagooc,
Godofredo N. Guya, and Adriano A. Ebcas

A RESOLUTION
URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, TO ENSURE
THE CONTINUED SAFE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MANDATED
NATIONAL IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM (NIP) FOR CHILDREN DESPITE
THE CHALLENGES POSED BY THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, AND, TO
SECURE AND ENSURE A STABLE SUPPLY OF AVAILABLE VACCINES
THROUGH CONTINUED CONDUCT OF OPEN, FAIR, AND COMPETITIVE
BIDDING, THEREBY PREVENTING OUTBREAKS OF VACCINE
PREVENTABLE DISEASES DURING THE TIME OF THIS PANDEMIC
(“OUTBREAK WITHIN AN OUTBREAK”)

WHEREAS, this COVID-19 pandemic may have caused other public health services to be foregone, delayed, or re-scheduled, leading to unintended consequence of neglected or deprioritized basic healthcare services such as the provision of routine immunization to infants and children;

WHEREAS, the ongoing community quarantine measures put in place to control spread of COVID-19 in have been observed to significantly challenge or completely pause the effective and efficient implementation of the National Immunization Program (NIP) for children in community health centers and other vaccination facilities;

WHEREAS, diseases such as polio, diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, Hepatitis-B, measles, mumps, rubella, and pneumococcal diseases are common pediatric vaccine preventable diseases (VPDs) that can severely impact lives of Filipino children aged five years or younger if they are not protected through immunization; and in recent two years, the Philippines has seen a surge of these VPDs as demonstrated in several pockets of community outbreaks of measles and polio in Filipino children;

WHEREAS, apart from measles and polio, pneumonia may also be prevented through immunization and which is allocated with 70% of the 2020 Department of Health (DOH) NIP budget, however, procurement of the said vaccine has been postponed;

WHEREAS, an open, fair, competitive public procurement of NIP vaccines provide the Filipino people the broadest possible options for affordable, quality, and registered vaccines, allowing for potential significant savings to the government while at the same promoting strong public governance;

WHEREAS, the DOH spearheads the implementation of the NIP, aimed largely to protect Filipino infants and children from the burden of VPDs by providing free routine immunizations, and to support implementation of the NIP for children during COVID-19 pandemic, the DOH issued on 25 March 2020 the Department Circular No. 2020-0150, "Interim Guidelines for Immunization Services During the COVID-19 Outbreak," stating that "it is important that while health service delivery is focused towards COVID-19 support, immunization services, which is an essential health service, should be made available to avoid vaccine preventable disease outbreaks with loss of lives and further overwhelm the healthcare system";

WHEREAS, the DOH has conducted several public awareness activities on the importance of continued immunization in children during the pandemic period in order to contain current VPD outbreaks and prevent future community VPD outbreaks which will further aggravate the health crisis the country is experiencing with the COVID-19 pandemic, and that the said activities have encouraged the Local Government Units to maintain NIP implementation in their respective jurisdictions and the parents to seek vaccination for their infants and young children.

WHEREAS, in support of the DOH guidelines, the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society of the Philippines (PIDSP), released on 29 March 2020 the "VACCINATION DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC: PPS and PIDSP RECOMMENDATIONS," informing the public that "Disruption in the provision of immunization services increases the number of susceptible individuals in the community," leading to "outbreaks of VPDs as well as VPD-related deaths, and further burden the already exhausted healthcare resources due to the rise in COVID-19 cases";

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) issued a joint statement on 20 April

2020, marking the World Immunization Week, stating "When routine vaccinations are missed, the risk of disease outbreaks increases," and underscoring that "as health care capacities are stretched in responding to COVID-19, national routine immunization programs are more critical than ever before";

WHEREAS, numerous national and international organizations of public health experts, medical professionals, patient advocacy groups, business, and civil society sectors, among others, have been clamoring for public measures to strengthen protection of Filipino infants and young children not only from COVID-19 but also from VPDs, thereby preventing further diseases outbreaks during the current pandemic, avoiding disease "outbreak within an outbreak".

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to encourage and support the DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH in its endeavor to contain the current and prevent future community outbreaks of VPDs during the COVID-19 pandemic ("an outbreak within an outbreak");

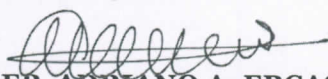
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, to laud the DOH for its continued effort to ensure continued safe implementation of the mandated NIP for children despite the challenges directly or indirectly brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, to encourage the DOH to continue to secure the stable supply and availability of quality vaccines through continued conduct of open, fair, competitive public procurement of NIP vaccines, including those that may have been previously postponed for procurement.

Adopted,


REP. PRESLEY C. DE JESUS
PHILRECA Partylist


REP. SERGIO C. DAGOOC
APEC Partylist


REP. ADRIANO A. EBCAS
Ako Padayon Pilipino Partylist


REP. GODOFREDO N. GUYA
RECÓBODA Partylist