Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1525

Introduced by REPRESENTATIVE VIRGILIO S. LACSON

A RESOLUTION
URGING THE IATF TO STUDY THE POSSIBILITY OF EASING MOBILITY AND TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS FOR INDIVUALS WHO HAVE UNDERGONE COVID-19 VACCINATION

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted industries across the globe in a matter of months - jeopardizing lives, shutting businesses, and setting off a worldwide economic slump.

WHEREAS, due to the nature of this virus, quarantine restrictions have been imposed for extended periods. Consequently, these limitations have dramatically interrupted mobility of both goods and persons.

WHEREAS, the magnitude of the economic impact caused by reduced mobility cannot be understated. The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) estimates that closing borders could increase trade costs by an average of 12% in the medium term across services sectors and countries.

WHEREAS, the disastrous economic effects of mobility restriction have been felt in the country as early as the second quarter of the year 2020. Domestic consumption, which is a key driver for the economic growth in the Philippines, has been significantly affected, in particular.

WHEREAS, if the level of activity does not improve quickly, the country can expect slower economic rebound in comparison to its neighboring countries. The Philippine economy posts -8.3% growth in Quarter 4 of the year 2020. The contraction in our GDP is the worst the country has experienced since the post-war era. In contrast, Vietnam was at a positive growth of 2.9%, and Singapore is at a less steep -5.8% decline.

WHEREAS, the precarious condition of our public health cannot be countered, however, the economy is also an important concern to many, since its continuous decline could result to unemployment, poverty, disruption of public order, among others.
WHEREAS, the emergent availability of the vaccine provides hope that economic rebound is forthcoming. The widespread vaccination will result to confidence to move around and jumpstart consumption. According to International Monetary Fund, the vaccine will power the global economy to grow 5.5% this year.

WHEREAS, it has become imperative for the Government to boost the economy and create measures to improve public consumption. One way through which this can be achieved is to allow persons who have availed of the vaccine to move more liberally from one jurisdiction to another, following strictly health protocols such as social distancing, and wearing personal protective equipment.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives to urge the IATF to study the possibility of easing mobility and travel restrictions for individuals who have undergone COVID-19 vaccination, with the goal of jumpstarting the economy, which shall consequently benefit the public in general.

Adopted,

[Signature]

HON. VIRGILIO S. LACSON