Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Resolution No. 1667

Introduced by the Honorable Precious Hipolito Castelo

A RESOLUTION
URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH) AND THE NATIONAL TASK FORCE AGAINST COVID-19 (NTF) TO EXPEDITE THE FORGING OF TRIPARTITE AGREEMENTS WITH COVID-19 VACCINE MANUFACTURERS AND PRIVATE ENTITIES WILLING TO PURCHASE COVID-19 VACCINES FOR THEIR EMPLOYEES

WHEREAS, in the global fight against COVID-19, governments around the world are racing to roll-out COVID-19 vaccines for mass immunization of their citizens;

WHEREAS, according to the country’s vaccine czar, Sec. Carlito Galvez, Jr., the government intends to vaccinate 75-80% of the population to achieve herd immunity against COVID-19;

WHEREAS, it is however unclear when said herd immunity will be achieved considering the snail-pace roll-out of COVID-19 vaccines already procured by the government;

WHEREAS, as of March 18, 2021, only a total of 292,677 healthcare workers have received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccines;

WHEREAS, now that COVID-19 cases are again surging, it is vital to swiftly implement the inoculation of these vaccines to the healthcare workers;

WHEREAS, the country’s health care system is on the verge of collapsing due to the rapid transmission caused by new variants of the virus;

WHEREAS, the country will not survive if it becomes a hotbed of different COVID-19 variants, considering the state of our economy and healthcare system;

WHEREAS, it is imperative upon the State, specifically upon DOH and NTF, to find ways that can greatly hasten the COVID-19 Vaccination Program, otherwise, the country will be perpetually stuck in this conundrum;

WHEREAS, under Section 5 of Republic Act No. 11525 or the COVID-19 Vaccination Program Act of 2021, it is stated that “Private entities may procure COVID-19 vaccines only in cooperation with the DOH and the NTF through a multiparty agreement, which shall include the DOH and relevant supplier of the COVID-19 vaccine”;

WHEREAS, under Section 11 of the same law, it is stated that: “The procurement, importation, donation, storage, transport, deployment and administration of COVID-19 vaccines through the
COVID-19 Vaccination Program by the government or any of its political subdivisions and by private entities shall be exempt from customs duties, value-added tax, excise tax, donor’s tax and other fees”;

WHEREAS, through this Resolution, it is advised that the State, through the DOH and the NTF, assist, guide, and cooperate with private entities who are willing to purchase COVID-19 vaccines for their employees;

WHEREAS, many private entities have manifested their willingness to finance the purchase of COVID-19 vaccines for their employees;

WHEREAS, any help to the COVID-19 Vaccination Program will certainly bring the country a step closer to achieving herd immunity;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives to urge the DOH and NTF to expedite the forging of tripartite agreements with COVID-19 vaccine manufacturers and private entities willing to purchase COVID-19 vaccines for their employees.

APPROVED,

PRECIOUS HIPOLITO CASTELO