Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City
EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Resolution No. 1685

Introduced by
ANAKALUSUGAN PARTY-LIST REPRESENTATIVE MICHAEL T. DEFENSOR AND
ANG PROBINSYANO PARTY-LIST REPRESENTATIVE RONNIE L. ONG

RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN INVESTIGATION IN AID OF LEGISLATION BY
THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
REGARDING THE POSSIBLE USE OF IVERMECTIN AGAINST COVID-19

WHEREAS, Article II Section 15 of the 1987 Constitution states that “The State shall
protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among
them.”

WHEREAS, In the Philippines, from 3 January 2020 to 26 March 2021, there have
been 693,048 confirmed cases of COVID-19 with 13,095 deaths, reported to the World Health Organization¹ (WHO);

WHEREAS, in a recent virtual press conference of the Department of Health last 24
March 2021, cities in virus epicenter Metro Manila are now described as "high to critical risk. Dr
Alethea de Guzman of the DOH Epidemiology Bureau said that a number of cities in the capital
region had experienced a 200% rise in COVID-19 cases from the previous weeks;²

WHEREAS, various news agencies have reported that due to the continuous surge of
COVID-19 infections in the country, hospitals in Metro Manila have announced that they have
reached full capacity status for their COVID-19 wards. Based on the March 20 data from DOH, 30 out of 150 hospitals in Metro Manila were at the
critical status in bed capacity solely for COVID-19 patients, while 22 were listed under the high-
risk status. Of the hospitals under critical status, 13 have already reached 100 percent bed
occupancy;³

WHEREAS, because of the recent surge, the Department of Health said that current
stocks of antiviral drug remdesivir and anti-inflammatory treatment tocilizumab are “running
low.” The use of these “investigational drugs” on Covid-19 patients in the country is allowed
under the compassionate use permit issued by the Food and Drug Administration;⁴

¹ https://covid19.who.int/region/wpro/country/ph
³ https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1409997/several-hospitals-in-metro-manila-declare-full-capacity-for-covid-19-cases
WHEREAS, another investigational drug which we should study allowing in the fight against Covid-19 is Ivermectin. Merck & Co. Inc. recognized Ivermectin’s potential for human use, particularly in the control of filariasis and most notably onchocerciasis, the cause of river blindness in West Africa, in the early 1980s⁵;

WHEREAS, Ivermectin is in the WHO’s⁶ and Philippine National Formulary List of Essential Medicine. About 3.7 billion doses of Ivermectin have been distributed in mass drug administration campaigns globally over the past 30 years⁷;

WHEREAS, According to a paper from the National Center for Biotechnology Information: “After more than 25 years of use, Ivermectin continues to provide a high margin of safety for a growing number of indications based on its anti-parasitic and anti-inflammatory activities.⁸

WHEREAS, Based on the data drug safety sheet for Ivermectin (New Drug Application Identifier: 50-742/S-022), side effects were uncommon and limited⁹;

WHEREAS, the State of Uttar Pradesh in India approved the use of Ivermectin for the treatment and prophylaxis of Covid-19 in August 2020. At present, there are 5,824 active cases, of which 3,383 are of which 3,383 are under home isolation.¹⁰ Compare this to their total population of over 230 million people and you can justifiably say that their rate of infection is a statistical anomaly.¹¹

WHEREAS, in the Philippine context, various news sources quoted the Department of Health (DOH) as saying that names of doctors prescribing the use of Ivermectin as a treatment for COVID-19 infection despite warning from government health authorities will be submitted to the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC).¹²

WHEREAS, The Department of Health (DOH) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) warned against the purchase and use of Ivermectin as treatment for coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19)¹³

WHEREAS, within the context of a massive surge in Covid-19 cases and dwindling supply of investigational drugs for the treatment of patients, the Department of Health and the Food and Drug Administration should consider giving enough leeway for Medical Practitioners to try other investigational drugs which have enough evidence to support their use, such as Ivermectin;

⁵ https://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/82/8/editorial30804html/en/
⁷ https://journal.chestnet.org/article/S0012-3692(20)34898-4/fulltext
⁹ https://journal.chestnet.org/article/S0012-3692(20)34898-4/fulltext
¹¹ M.timesofindia.com
¹³ https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1135016
THEREFORE, be it resolved as it is hereby resolved, that the Committee on Health of the House of Representatives conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation regarding the possible use of Ivermectin against Covid-19.

Adopted,

MICHAEL T. DEFENSOR

RONNIE L. ONG