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

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. _________

Introduced by: Hon. Angelina “Helen” D.L. Tan, M.D.

RESOLUTION
URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS TO EXPEDITE THE CONSTRUCTION OF MODULAR HOSPITALS TO AUGMENT THE HOSPITAL SURGE CAPACITY FOR COVID-19 CASES

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, a year after the first imposition of the Enhanced Community Quarantine on March 2020, Metro Manila, Bulacan, Cavite, Laguna, and Rizal (NCR Plus) has been placed once again under enhanced community quarantine from 29 March 2021 to 04 April 2021 and extended for another week until 11 April 2021 due to the new surge in COVID-19 cases;

WHEREAS, the country has been experiencing record-high increases of daily COVID-19 cases which peaked at 15,310 on Friday, 02 April 2021, which was country's highest single-day case load so far and continues at an average of 10,000 in the past weeks;

WHEREAS, as of 9 April 2021, the country logged record-high active cases of COVID-19 at 178,351 and deaths at 401;¹

WHEREAS, the moderate to severe cases which lead to deaths could have been prevented or numbers reduced with adequate and proper management and treatment at a fully-equipped medical facility;

WHEREAS, as of April 5, 2021, 79 percent of ICU beds, 72 percent of isolation beds and 60 percent of ward beds in Metro Manila have been used;²

WHEREAS, on the briefing conducted by the House Committee on Health on 30 March 2021, major hospitals in Metro Manila revealed that their facilities are being overwhelmed by COVID-19 patients with long queue in emergency rooms with some dying while waiting for admission;³

³ House Committee on Health briefing 30 March 2021
WHEREAS, several news accounts over the past few days captured actual stories of people infected with COVID-19 dying at home, in ambulances while in transit\(^4\), in tents outside the hospital\(^5\), inside their cars\(^6\) while waiting for hospital admission, or in the emergency room after days of waiting for admission;

WHEREAS, construction of modular or field hospitals has been seen as a solution to the dearth of hospital beds especially during the surge of COVID-19 cases due to its short assembly time in a matter of days as seen in other countries\(^7\);

WHEREAS, as private and public hospitals in Metro Manila struggle to accommodate the new surge in coronavirus cases, the government hopes to ease the congestion with the opening of a new 110-bed field hospital for COVID-19 patients at Quezon Institute, in Quezon City.\(^8\)

WHEREAS, the DPWH also plans to complete an extension at the QI modular hospital, at the Lung Center of the Philippines, and other hospitals with in NCR due to its high-occupancy rate\(^9\);

WHEREAS, amid the surge of COVID-19 patients and rising utilization rate of ICU beds, there is a need to expedite the setting up of these modular hospitals not only in NCR but also in other parts of the country with high burden of COVID-19 cases which should have been done earlier in 2020 which could have pre-empted our current predicament on our bed capacity;

WHEREAS, the Department of Health, as the lead agency which identifies the location needing utmost attention and the Department of Public Works and Highways, as the lead agency in-charge of the construction of these modular hospitals, should coordinate with each other, be more proactive in reaching targets, be preventive rather than reactive, and expedite the construction of modular hospitals in parts of the country with high burden COVID-19 cases to augment our health system capacity which is already at critical levels;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the House of Representatives, to urge the Department of Health to identify expeditiously areas with high burden of COVID-19 cases and areas with increased transmission, and for Department of Public Works and Highways to construct accordingly in an expeditious manner in order to serve the current needs of the Filipino people especially those suffering with COVID-19.

Adopted,

ANGELINA “HELEN” D.L. TAN, M.D.
4th District, Quezon

\(^4\) https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1413547/robredo-asks-doh-again-if-hospitals-arent-full-why-are-patients-lining-up-waiting-for-slots

\(^5\) House Committee on Health briefing 30 March 2021


\(^7\) https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-51245156

\(^8\) https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1415675/new-covid-19-field-hospital-opens-in-qc-5-more-soon#ixzz6rWHa9uVm

\(^9\) https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1415675/new-covid-19-field-hospital-opens-in-qc-5-more-soon#ixzz6rWHa9uVm