Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City
EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session
House Resolution No. 2233

Introduced by HON. ROZZANO RUFINO B. BIAZON

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE STATUS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11229, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “CHILD SAFETY IN MOTOR VEHICLES ACT”

WHEREAS, Section 15, Article II of the 1987 Constitution provides that the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them;

WHEREAS, the State recognizes the right of children to special protection from all forms of neglect, abuse and other conditions prejudicial to their development, including exposure to safety risks while aboard motor vehicles;

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 11229 (R.A. No. 11229), or the Child Safety in Motor Vehicles Act, was enacted on February 22, 2019 to guarantee the safety and welfare of infants and children and prevent traffic-related deaths and injuries by mandating the use of child restraint systems (CRS) for children, and prohibiting drivers from allowing children to sit in front seats of motor vehicles or from leaving children unattended in motor vehicles;

WHEREAS, the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of R.A. No. 11229, approved on October 23, 2019, provided that mandatory compliance with R.A. No. 11229 would begin on February 2, 2021;

WHEREAS, on February 2, 2021, the Department of Transportation (DoTr) clarified in an official statement posted on its website that “violators will have no fines for now and will initially be warned and given information materials about the law” in consideration of the COVID-19 pandemic and until a comprehensive information, education, and communications (IEC) campaign for the law is executed;

WHEREAS, even during the COVID-19 pandemic, children are in danger of deaths and severe injuries resulting from road crashes when they travel for essential services, which is allowed even under the strictest level of community quarantine under the guidelines of the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases;
WHEREAS, children have been involved in road crashes that occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic, with the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority having recorded 265 road crashes involving children in Metro Manila, despite most of the year spent in quarantine;

WHEREAS, without the full enforcement of R.A. No. 11229, children who travel in motor vehicles remain at risk of suffering serious injuries or even death when involved in road crashes;

WHEREAS, unless R.A. No. 11229 is fully enforced, children in motor vehicles will continue to die on Philippine roads – a situation that is lamentable, considering that each road death can be prevented;

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to protect children who travel in motor vehicles even and especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, since reducing preventable road deaths and injuries will ensure that scarce public healthcare resources will be dedicated to responding to the COVID-19 pandemic;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved to direct the appropriate Committee on Transportation to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the status of the implementation of Republic Act No. 11229, otherwise known as the “Child Safety in Motor Vehicles Act.”

Adopted,

ROZZANO RUVINO B. BIAZON
Representative
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