REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Resolution No. 651

Introduced by Rep. CESAR V. SARMIENTO

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE FULL SUPPORT OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE “WESTMINSTER DECLARATION” AND DIRECTING THE CONCERNED LAND TRANSPORT AGENCIES TO FAITHFULLY IMPLEMENT THE ROAD SAFETY LAWS

WHEREAS, per the 2015 Global Status Report on Road Safety of the World Health Organization (WHO), road traffic accidents claim more than 1.26 million people every year and injure as many as 50 million individuals, with 90% of the casualties occurring in low- and middle-income countries;

WHEREAS, in view of the scale of the road safety problem, the United Nations General Assembly has launched the Decade of Action for Road Safety (2011-2020), a global framework guiding national-level action with the goal of reducing global road traffic deaths and injuries by 2020;

WHEREAS, while the WHO notes some progress on the 6th year of the Decade of Action for Road Safety (2011-2020), it noted that many countries still need to strengthen their road safety legislation;

WHEREAS, to provide “a platform for national and local parliamentarians and legislators with an interest or responsibility for road safety to advocate for improved laws,” the WHO and the Towards Zero Foundation, in association with the UK Parliamentary Advisory Council for Transport Safety, organized the International Workshop and Launch of the Global Forum for Road Safety Legislators last 12 December 2016 in London;

WHEREAS, the undersigned, as Chairman of the House Committee on Transportation, was nominated by WHO to attend the said event and had participated therein by reporting on the road safety situation and legislative priorities of the Philippines, observing the experiences of other countries and committing, along with other parliamentarians, to advocate the strengthening of road safety laws;

WHEREAS, a formal agreement dubbed as the “Westminster Declaration” (copy attached) was adopted by the Global Forum for Road Safety Legislators, which, among others, encourages parliamentary bodies to “adopt comprehensive laws on behavioural and protective risk factors with a view towards increasing the proportion of countries with comprehensive laws from 15% to 20% by 2020 and adopt measures to fund road safety;”

WHEREAS, the Westminster Declaration is consistent with the UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/70/260, adopted on 15 April 2016, which invites Member States to consider adopting comprehensive road safety legislation in order
to increase the number of countries with such legislation on risk factors such as non-use of seat belts, child restraints and helmets, drinking alcohol and driving, speeding and distracted or impaired driving;

WHEREAS, the Committee on Transportation has observed that, despite the Philippines presently having a number of road safety laws, road safety risks can still be observed nationwide largely due to ineffective law enforcement and budgetary and personnel constraints;

WHEREAS, the number of road traffic accidents in the country remains significant with the Philippine National Police reporting 24,656 accidents in 2015, with 1,040 people dead; and

WHEREAS, road traffic injuries and deaths, considered by the WHO to be "both predictable and preventable" can be addressed by strong multi-sectoral partnerships that tackle road safety issues.

NOW, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the House of Representatives hereby expresses its full support to the Westminster Declaration towards the reduction of road traffic deaths, injuries and damages.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the House of Representatives, through the Committee on Transportation, hereby commits to coordinate with the concerned implementing agencies and road safety advocates in coming up with needed budgetary and regulatory laws, policies and strategies to promote road safety and to exercise its oversight powers to ensure the proper implementation of such road safety laws, policies and strategies.

RESOLVED FINALLY, that the Department of Transportation, Land Transportation Office, Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board, PNP-Highway Patrol Group, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority and other concerned enforcement agencies are directed, pursuant to their statutory duties and functions, to prevent the further loss of lives and destruction of properties by faithfully implementing the road safety laws such as, but not limited to:

1) Republic Act No. 8750 or "Seat Belts Use Act of 1999;"
2) Republic Act No. 10054 or the "Motorcycle Helmet Act of 2009;"
3) Republic Act No. 10586 or the "Anti-Drunk and Drugged Driving Act of 2013;"
4) Republic Act No. 10666 or "The Children’s Safety on Motorcycle Act of 2015;"
5) Republic Act No. 10913 or "The Anti-Distracted Driving Act;" and
6) Republic Act No. 10916 or "The Road Speed Limiter Act of 2016."

Approved.

CESAR V. SARMIENTO

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1 This does not include accidents that are not reported due to lack of investigating officers or lack of an effective means of reporting.
Westminster Declaration
Adopted by the Global Forum for Road Safety Legislators
London, 12 December 2016

PP1. We, the Members of Parliament gathered in London, on 12 December 2016 during the International workshop for road safety legislators, organized by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Towards Zero Foundation (TZF), in association with the UK Parliamentary Advisory Council for Transport Safety (PACTS);

PP2. Concerned that more than 1.25 million people and as many as 50 million are injured in road crashes every year with 80% of these casualties occurring in low- and middle-income countries1;

PP3. Recognizing that the overwhelming majority of road traffic deaths and injuries are predictable and preventable and that whilst there has been progress by the mid-point of the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020 much remains to be done, particularly in regard to the adoption of effective legislative and policy frameworks for road traffic injury prevention;

PP4. Recalling the United Nation’s (UN) Sustainable Development Goals2 (SDGs) include road safety in Goal 3.6 (Good Health & Well Being) with a target to halve road traffic deaths and injuries by 2020, and in Goal 11.2 (Sustainable Cities & Communities) with a target by 2030 to “provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities, and older persons”;

PP5. Acknowledging the road safety leadership role of WHO, the importance of UN’s road safety related legal instruments and agreements managed by the UN Economic Commission for Europe, and the coordination activities of the United Nations Road Safety Collaboration;

PP6. Welcoming the UN General Assembly’s support for the implementation of the Global Plan for the Decade3 and WHO’s preparation of the Save LIVES Technical Package aimed at policy-makers mainly in low- and middle-income countries which provides evidence-based measures that are most likely to help reduce road traffic deaths and injuries;

PP7. Noting the recommendations of the report “Zero road deaths and serious injuries: leading a paradigm shift to Safe System”, published by the International Transport Forum, OECD, in October 20164;

PP8. Recalling the UN General Assembly resolution 64/255 of 2010 which called for joint multisectoral action to increase the proportion of countries with comprehensive legislation on key risk facts from 15% to 50% by the end of the Decade5;

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1 WHO, Global status report on road safety 2015.
2 UN General Assembly Resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”.
PP9. Recalling the Moscow Declaration adopted at the First Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety in November 2009, the Brasilia Declaration on Road Safety adopted at the 2nd Global High Level Conference on Road Safety in November 2015, the side event ‘Parliamentarians for global road safety - Building a legislator’s network’ held in Brasilia, and the UN General Assembly Resolution adopted in April 2016;

OP1. Establish the Global Forum for Road Safety Legislators to serve as an informal voluntary network for those serving in national and regional parliaments, city and local authorities, responsible for road safety legislation and policy frameworks to exchange best practice in road traffic injury prevention and encourage the adoption and enforcement of comprehensive and effective road safety strategies and laws;

OP2. Support the UN Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020, the implementation of the Global Plan for the Decade, the road safety SDG’s, and the target to halve road traffic deaths and injuries with the aim to move towards a world free from road fatalities and serious injuries;

OP3. Encourage parliamentary bodies that have not already done so to adopt comprehensive laws on behavioural and protective risk factors with a view towards increasing the proportion of countries with comprehensive laws from 15% to 50% by 2020 and adopt measures to fund road safety;

OP4. Encourage the development of ‘All Party Friends of Road Safety Groups’ in parliamentary bodies to promote awareness of road safety and the legislative priorities that will contribute to the UN Decade of Action and the SDGs;

OP5. Encourage the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, and other similar regional parliamentary bodies to give their support to the UN Decade of Action for Road Safety 2010-2011 and include road traffic injury prevention as an important part of their engagement in the SDGs;

OP6. Invite the Towards Zero Foundation, in co-operation with WHO, to assist in the organisation of an annual meeting of the Global Forum for Road Safety Legislators, and depending on the availability of resources, workshops and related activities in support of the implementation of the Global Plan for the Decade, the road safety SDGs and the Save Lives Policy Package;

OP7. Invite the Global Forum of Road Safety Legislators, in co-operation with the Towards Zero Foundation and the WHO, to support the fourth UN Global Road Safety Week to be held on 8-12 May 2017;

OP8. Invite Parliamentarians in all WHO Member States to endorse the content of this declaration.

6 http://www.who.int/roadsafety/ministerial_conference/en/.
8 UN General Assembly Resolution 70/260 of 15 April 2016, “Improving global road safety”.
9 The Towards Zero Foundation is a UK registered charity (number: 7963686) under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Michael of Kent working internationally to encourage a world free from road fatalities.