Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City  

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session  

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 689  

Introduced by: HONORABLE ALLAN BENEDICT S. REYES  

A RESOLUTION URGING AIRLINE COMPANIES TO GIVE DUE CONSIDERATION TO ALL PASSENGERS WHO BOOKED FLIGHTS TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES WITH CONFIRMED CASES OF NOVEL CORONA VIRUS (2019-nCoV)  

WHEREAS, Section 15, Article II of the 1987 Constitution mandates that "[T]he State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them;"  

WHEREAS, of the three fundamental powers of the State, the exercise of police power has been considered as "the most essential, insistent and the least limitable of powers, extending as it does to all the great public needs."  

WHEREAS, when the conditions so demand as determined by the Legislature, property rights must give way to the primacy of police power since "property rights, though sheltered by due process, must yield to general welfare."  

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization announced that it was declaring the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) outbreak a "public health emergency," setting in motion a plan for global coordination to stem the spread of the virus, which originated last December 2019 in Wuhan, China.  

WHEREAS, Chinese officials announced more than 3,100 new cases of the coronavirus, as the total number of people infected in China reached 9,720 as of 31 January 2020, including nine (9) cases in the self-governing island of Taiwan.  

WHEREAS, cases of 2019-nCoV have already been confirmed in Italy, France, Hong Kong, Japan, Nepal, Cambodia, Singapore, the United Arab Emirates, Vietnam,  

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1 Section 15, Article II, The 1987 Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines.  
5 Id.
Taiwan, Canada, Thailand, Malaysia, Germany, Finland and Sri Lanka. In the Philippines, the first case of infection was confirmed by the Department of Health (DoH) on 30 January 2020;  

**WHEREAS**, amid fears of the spread of the deadly 2019-nCoV, passengers who previously booked flights bound to foreign countries with confirmed cases are left with no prudent choice but to cancel their bookings; 

**WHEREAS**, this voluntary cancellation of flights to foreign countries with confirmed cases of 2019-nCoV is beneficial to the country as a whole since it helps mitigate the public health threat posed by the said virus; 

**WHEREAS**, passengers who cancel bookings are usually charged with cancellation charges and penalties depending on the fare type; 

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, as it is hereby resolved by the House of Representatives to urge airline companies to waive cancellation fees and give due consideration to all passengers who booked flights to foreign countries with confirmed cases of novel corona virus (2019-NCOV). 

Adopted, 

\[Signature\] 
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