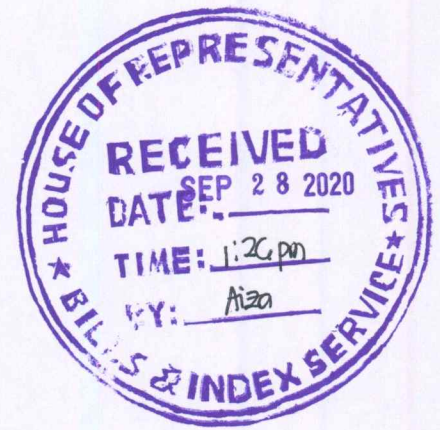


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Resolution No. 1257



Introduced by the Honorable Precious Hipolito Castelo

A RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH) TO PRESCRIBE A SINGLE, COMMON PRICE FOR THE REVERSE TRANSCRIPTION POLYMERASE CHAIN REACTION (RT-PCR) OR SWAB TEST FOR SUSPECTED CORONAVIRUS CARRIERS

WHEREAS, according to the Department of Health (DOH), the use of Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) test remains to be the gold standard for COVID-19 testing worldwide, as opposed to other methods such as the Rapid Antibody Test (RAT) kits;

WHEREAS, DOH also pointed out that RAT kits are “low sensitive” to the virus and incur “high false-negative rates”;

WHEREAS, RAT kits therefore could give a false sense of security to one who would get a “false-negative” result, which could in turn be more disastrous to public health and may result to further transmission of the virus;

WHEREAS, thus, it is imperative to make RT-PCR kits more accessible to those who need it, in consonance to the T3 program – “Test, Trace and Treat”;

WHEREAS, RT-PCR tests’ cost varies from P3,500, which is the price the Philippine National Red Cross charges, to a high of P12,500, the rate that some private hospitals impose on persons who avail themselves of their drive-thru services and who want results to be available in 24 hours;

WHEREAS, it is hereby recommended that an affordable rate of Two Thousand Pesos (PhP2,000.00) be set as the suggested retail price for the service of availing an RT-PCR test;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives to urge the DOH to prescribe a single, common price for the RT-PCR or swab test for suspected coronavirus carriers.

APPROVED,


PRECIOUS HIPOLITO CASTELO