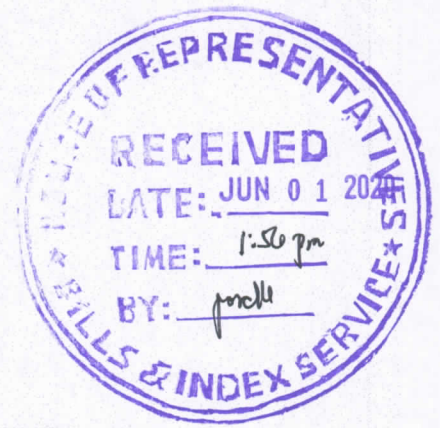


Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

House Resolution No. 934



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**Introduced by ACT-CIS Party-list Representative ROWENA NIÑA O. TADURAN**

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**RESOLUTION URGING DOLE TO AMEND LABOR ADVISORY No. 18**

DOLE Labor Advisory No. 18, s. 2020 dated 16 May 2020 provides, among others:

"Section 2. Cost. - The employer shall shoulder the cost of COVID-19 prevention and control measures such as but not limited to the following: testing, disinfection facilities, hand sanitizers, personal protective equipment (PPEs i.e., face mask), signages, proper orientation and training of workers including IEC materials on COVID-19 prevention and control. x x x"

For several months now, the world has seen the suffering of many brought about by this pandemic. During the lockdown period, commerce was put to an unprecedented halt. Workers were forced to stay home and businesses had to stop, albeit temporarily.

The suspension of work and business operations had a devastating impact on all sectors of society. No one was spared. Big and small companies all experienced debilitating losses. However, despite these challenges, many business owners found it in their hearts to render some assistance to their employees. We saw in the news how many companies granted salaries and other benefits to their employees during the lockdown period. Bigger companies even went out of their way to extend assistance and distribute PPEs, relief goods, etc. to our countrymen.

Now that some businesses have been allowed to resume operations, we should at the very least make it easier for them to recover and recoup their losses. Helping businesses to get back on their feet will no doubt re-energize our economy. More importantly, if businesses are able to stabilize once again, employees will certainly be the first beneficiaries.

We have no doubt that DOLE Advisory No. 18 aims to protect the safety and welfare of our workers. There should be no argument in that. However, we must not also forget the concerns of employers. We should not kill the goose that lays the golden eggs.

The provision of face masks and sanitizers by employers should not be an issue, considering that the costs of the said items are not really prohibitive.

COVID-19 testing, however, is a different issue altogether. The cost of testing per person is not nominal at all. Multiply that by the number of employees and you'll lead a small/micro company to close shop. Businesses are reeling from the effects of the pandemic; it does not help that we add to the burden of employers at this time. Instead

of continuing to help revive the economy by maintaining their workforce, companies might just stop operating.

The private sector has done a very big part in alleviating the sufferings of the labor force. Let us not unduly castigate it by obliging them to shoulder the cost of COVID-19 testing. Lest we forget, it is not the duty of the private sector; rather, it is the obligation of the government.

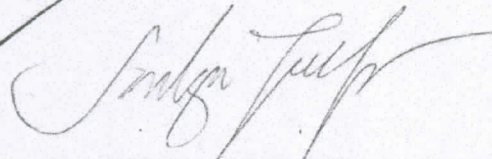
It is in this regard that we earnestly request the DOLE to amend its Advisory No. 18 by making it optional for employers to shoulder the cost of COVID-19 testing.



ROWENA NIÑA O. TADURAN



ERIC GO YAP



JOCELYN PUA TULFO