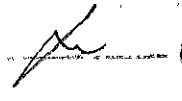


FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Second Regular Session )

8 SEP 11 10:41

RECEIVED BY: 

SENATE  
P.S. Res. No. 627

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Introduced by **SENATOR RICHARD J. GORDON**

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**RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, AND THE PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION TO USE ALL RESOURCES AVAILABLE, TO ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE AND ASSIST THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN THE SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 1<sup>ST</sup> GLOBAL HANDWASHING DAY ON THE 15<sup>TH</sup> OF OCTOBER 2008**

**WHEREAS**, the United Nations General Assembly has designated 2008 the International Year of Sanitation, and Global Handwashing Day will echo and reinforce its call for improved hygiene practices;

**WHEREAS**, the practice of handwashing with soap tops the international hygiene agenda this year with the first-ever Global Handwashing Day slated for 15 October 2008;

**WHEREAS**, every year, more than 3.5 million children all over the world do not live to celebrate their fifth birthday because of diarrhea and pneumonia;

**WHEREAS**, handwashing with soap reduces diarrheal morbidity by 44% with hands as the touted principal carriers of disease-causing germs, and handwashing with soap can avert 1 million of those deaths;

**WHEREAS**, Global Handwashing Day can become a powerful platform for advocacy aimed at policy makers and key stakeholders and an occasion for concrete public commitment to actions that will spur behavior change;

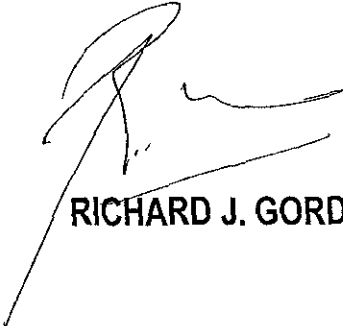
**WHEREAS**, handwashing with soap is a life-saving intervention within the technological and financial reach of all countries and communities. But promoting it requires appeals not necessarily to health, but to other things that people value, such as comfort and social status;

**WHEREAS**, handwashing with soap is the single most cost-effective health intervention. Investments in handwashing with soap can also maximize the health benefits of investments in water supply and sanitation infrastructure and reduce health risks when families do not have access to basic sanitation and water supply services;

**WHEREAS**, handwashing is a cornerstone of public health, and new hygienic behaviors and sanitary services are principal drivers of the sharp drop in deaths from infectious disease in affluent countries in the late 19th century; now therefore be it;

RESOLVED by the Senate, as it is hereby resolved, to urge the Department of Health, Department of Education, and the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation to use all resources available, to actively participate and assist the United Nations General Assembly in the successful implementation of the upcoming 1<sup>st</sup> Global Handwashing Day on the 15<sup>th</sup> of October 2008.

Adopted,



**RICHARD J. GORDON**