

**FIFTEENTH COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS  
YOUTH CONGRESS**

Y.C. Res No. 15-07

First day, Third Regular Session, 2016

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**A YOUTH CONGRESS RESOLUTION**

To recommend that the CNMI Public School System integrate a mandatory sex education course to help reduce the risk of spreading sexually transmitted diseases and teen pregnancies within the Commonwealth.

1       **WHEREAS**, in 2014, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation's Division of Public  
2 Health HIV-STD Resource Treatment Center reported that there was a concerning amount of  
3 cases involving Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) in the CNMI, wherein it was recorded  
4 that 226 cases involved Chlamydia and 22 cases of Gonorrhea; and

5       **WHEREAS**, in 2014, the HIV-STD Resource Treatment Center also reported 1 new  
6 case of HIV in the CNMI and 3 more cases in 2015 which now totals 11 cases of HIV in the  
7 CNMI over the past years; and

8       **WHEREAS**, in terms of teen pregnancy, the Division of Public Health's Health and  
9 Vital Statistics Office gathered data on the rate of teen pregnancy in the CNMI dating from  
10 2009-2014 which indicated that the rate of teenage fertility was much higher in the CNMI  
11 compared to the U.S. mainland with approximately 24.2 births per 1,000 women aged 15-19 in  
12 2012-2014; and

13       **WHEREAS**, the Health and Vital Statistics Office's data also revealed that the  
14 worldwide teen fertility rate was 48 per 1,000; 23 per 1,000 in developed countries, and a  
15 staggering 61 per 1,000 for the Pacific region in 2007; and

16       **WHEREAS**, the Health and Vital Statistics Office's data ultimately concluded that  
17 teen pregnancies among resident mothers in the CNMI are much higher compared to  
18 temporary residents and tourist mothers; and

19       **WHEREAS**, one of the major growing concerns in the CNMI are teens who are  
20 sexually active and are having unprotected sex, putting themselves at risk for sexually  
21 transmitted diseases as well as early pregnancy; and

1           **WHEREAS**, with the high rates of Sexually Transmitted Infections and teen  
2 pregnancies per capita in the CNMI, it has become apparent that more proactive steps need to  
3 be taken to help increase the awareness within our youth population about the potential risks of  
4 sexual behavior; and

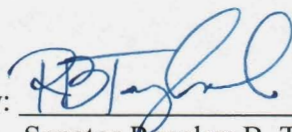
5           **WHEREAS**, an effective way of reducing the occurrence of Sexually Transmitted  
6 Infections and teen pregnancies in the CNMI would be to implement mandatory sex education  
7 courses at an early onset of our children's education; and

8           **WHEREAS**, the benefits of having mandatory sex education courses throughout early  
9 learning in schools greatly outweigh the costs of spreading sexual infectious diseases and  
10 increases in teen pregnancies;

11           **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Fifteenth CNMI Youth Congress  
12 hereby recommends that the CNMI Public School System integrate a mandatory sex education  
13 course to help reduce the risk of spreading sexually transmitted diseases and teen pregnancies  
14 within the Commonwealth; and

15           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Speaker of the Fifteenth CNMI Youth  
16 Congress shall certify, and the Youth Congress Legislative Secretary shall attest to the  
17 adoption of this Resolution and thereafter shall transmit certified copies to the CNMI Public  
18 School System; the Honorable Francisco M. Borja, President of the Senate; the Honorable  
19 Rafael S. Demapan, Speaker of the House of Representatives; the Honorable Gregorio "Kilili"  
20 Sablan, Washington Delegate; and to the Honorable Ralph DLG. Torres, Governor of the  
21 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Date: 4/11/16

Introduced by:   
Senator Roselyn B. Tanghal