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## EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article 13, Section 11 states:

The State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost. There shall be priority for the needs of the under-privileged, sick, elderly, disabled, women, and children. The State shall endeavor to provide free medical care to paupers.

Lead is a neurotoxin that is particularly hazardous to young children, causing permanent neurological damage. Exposures to even very low levels of lead can cause brain function impairment. No level of lead exposure has been found to be safe for a developing child.

The high levels of lead result from a number of factors, including lead in soil in which ingredients are grown as well as other lead contamination during the transport, grinding and candy-making process. This bill will ensure that lead levels are monitored so that our children will not be exposed to this hazardous toxin.<sup>\*</sup>

MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

<sup>\*</sup> This bill was originally filed in the 14<sup>th</sup> Congress.

## FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES First Regular Session

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## S. No. 2336

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

## AN ACT

TO KEEP LEAD WITHIN MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE LEVELS IN CANDY

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

3 SECTION 1. *Maximum Allowable Lead Level.* – For the purposes of this Act,
4 "Maximum Allowable Lead Level" shall mean one-tenth part of lead per million parts.

5 SECTION 2. *Lead in Candy*.- The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) shall 6 monitor all candy sold or distributed in the country. Monitoring shall include sampling and 7 testing to determine the lead levels contained in the candy.

8 SECTION 3. *Excess* Lead. – If the lead level in candy that is tested by the DTI exceeds
9 the maximum allowable level, the department shall:

(A) Issue health advisory notices alerting them of the danger posed by consumption of
 such candy exceeding the maximum allowable lead level; and

(B) Notify the manufacturer and the distributor that such candy exceeds the maximum
allowable lead level, and that such candy shall not be sold or distributed until further testing
proves that the candy is in compliance with the maximum allowable lead level.

SECTION 4. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or
 parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or
 modified accordingly.

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SECTION 5. Separability Clause. - If, for any reason, any provision of this Act is
 declared to be unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions hereof which are not
 affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

4 SECTION 6. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days 5 following its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

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Approved,