

SENATE

9 MAY 12 PM 1:17

P.S. Res. No. 1062

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND DEMOGRAPHY AND OTHER APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, *IN AID OF LEGISLATION*, INTO THE REPORTED INCREASE IN THE INCIDENCE OF ACCIDENTAL AND INTENTIONAL INTAKE OF CYANIDE-LADEN JEWELRY CLEANERS, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF CRAFTING APPROPRIATE LEGISLATION THAT WOULD REGULATE, IF NOT BAN, THE USE OF CYANIDE-BEARING JEWELRY CLEANERS IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE HEALTH OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC

WHEREAS, the protection of public health is a paramount policy issue especially as this principle echoes the constitutional mandate of the State to protect the health of its citizens and to adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential health services available to all;

WHEREAS, a report from the University of the Philippines – National Poison Management and Poison Control Center (UP – NPMPC) indicate that jewelry cleaners were the fourth most commonly ingested poisonous chemical and the third most commonly swallowed poison by children in 2008;

WHEREAS, newspaper reports indicate that between January 2009 and April 2009, the UP-NPMPC handled 99 cases of silver-cleaner poisoning involving 11 accidental and 88 non-accidental cases that resulted in the death of 6 victims, all under 19 years of age;

WHEREAS, cyanide-laden jewelry cleaners and substances pose lethal harm to the general public who accidentally or voluntarily ingest or inhale these substances;

WHEREAS, news reports indicate that a number of environmental advocacy groups, including the EcoWaste Coalition, is now seeking for the immediate prohibition of the sale of jewelry cleaners containing cyanide;

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to review existing laws and policies being implemented by the government anent the use of cyanide substances in jewelry cleaners.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate to direct the Senate Committee on Health and Demography and other appropriate Committees to conduct an inquiry, *In Aid of Legislation*, into the reported increase in the incidence of accidental and intentional intake of cyanide-laden jewelry cleaners, with the end in view of crafting appropriate legislation that would regulate, if not ban, the use of cyanide-bearing jewelry cleaners in order to protect the health of the general public.

Adopted,


MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID
Senator