

SENATE

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P. S. Res. No. 1087

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Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES IN THE SENATE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE PROLIFERATION OF SCHOOL SUPPLIES CONTAINING TOXIC SUBSTANCES BEING SOLD IN THE MARKET THAT POSE SERIOUS HEALTH RISKS TO SCHOOL CHILDREN, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF PROTECTING THE HEALTH OF OUR SCHOOL CHILDREN

WHEREAS, it is the primary duty of the State to protect the health of the general public and establish quality health standards in the sale and distribution of school supplies for children in order to protect them from hazardous and/or toxic substances;

WHEREAS, the EcoWaste Coalition and Mother Earth Foundation have reported that the unregulated sale of school supplies made out of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) plastic such as backpack bags, binders, lunch boxes and clear plastic sheets as book and notebook cover pose serious health risks to our school children given that PVC plastic, often labeled as "vinyl" or "plastic # 3", contains poisonous additives to soften or stabilize it such as phthalates that can eventually seep out or disperse into the air posing risks to children's health;

WHEREAS, the EcoWaste Coalition has earlier warned the public about the dangers of using school supplies made with PVC such as clear plastic sheets for notebook covers given that PVC contains phthalates which has been found to be poisonous and constant exposure to the chemical can affect a child's mental and behavioral development;

WHEREAS, Phthalates are a family of compounds whose primary use is as a vinyl softener. Phthalates are primarily used as plasticizers to make vinyl soft and flexible. In August 2008, President Bush of the United States of America (USA) signed into law the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act (CPSIA) which included provisions to restrict six phthalates in toys and children's products;

WHEREAS, Phthalates permeate the environment and contaminate large populations of people throughout the world. Phthalates are in the blood of pregnant women at levels of concern, particularly when the contaminants are considered in the aggregate. Phthalates cross the placenta and also contaminate breast milk. Relevant animal tests show that phthalates interfere with normal fetal and infant development.

WHEREAS, while the United States and the European Union had already banned the use of phthalates in children's school supplies, these substances are still



commonly found in the Philippines. School supplies containing phthalates are not yet banned in the Philippines;

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need on the part of the government to find suitable and affordable alternatives to school supplies made out of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) in order to protect the health of our school children given that these materials contain toxic substances that could affect children's health.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to direct the appropriate Committees in the Senate to conduct an inquiry, *In Aid of Legislation*, into the proliferation of school supplies containing toxic substances being sold in the market that pose serious health risks to school children, with the end in view of protecting the health of our school children.

Adopted,


MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID
Senator