

SENATE

P.S. RES. NO. **1293**

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Introduced by Senator Villar

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RESOLUTION

**DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND DEMOGRAPHY TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE SAFETY OF GEL-FILLED TEETHERS, PACIFIERS AND BABY TOOLS, ACCESSORIES AND PRODUCTS WITH THE END-IN-VIEW OF PROTECTING THE HEALTH OF FILIPINO INFANTS AND CHILDREN**

**Whereas**, the 1987 Philippine Constitution in the Article on State Policies and Principles provides, “[t]he State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them” (Article II, Section 15);

**Whereas**, very recently, the United States Food and Drug Administration tested samples from two lots of the gel-filled “teethers” and pacifiers and have discovered that the liquid inside these “teethers” is contaminated with *Bacillus subtilis* and *Bacillus circulans*;

**Whereas**, Health Canada likewise found an assortment of bacteria, i.e. *Bacillus licheniformis*, *Bacillus cereus*, *Burkholderia tropica*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* in the liquid of certain gel-filled teethers;

**Whereas**, these bacteria are generally not harmful, but infants and children with weakened immune systems can be affected causing stomach pain, vomiting, diarrhea, and more serious disease, if the teether or the pacifier is punctured and the liquid gel is ingested;

**Whereas**, a number of brand name gel-filled teethers and pacifiers have been recalled either in the US or in Canada;

**Whereas**, a number of these baby products and accessories may be available in the Philippines considering that cheap imported items and commodities flood the market;

**Whereas**, these “teethers” and pacifiers are currently being sold in baby stores, malls and in the internet auction sites;

**Whereas**, given these alarming reports and facts and in the interest of public health, it is necessary to inquire whether the Bureau of Food and Drugs and other health agencies have issued necessary regulations and issuances and their relevant efforts vis-à-vis the importation, sale, distribution, and use of these teethers, pacifiers and other baby related products, accessories and items; Now therefore be it

**RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, to direct the Committee on Health and Demography to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the safety of gel-filled teethers, pacifiers and baby tools, accessories and products with the end-in-view of protecting the health of Filipino infants and children.

**Adopted,**



**MANNY VILLAR**